# Plain & Valley August 2025 · Volume 18 Number 8 Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



Darren Luhtala captured this photo of the Living Skies fireworks exploding above the beach at Moosomin Lake as people watched.

### Thousands attend fireworks competition

ву Аѕнгеу Воснек

The Moosomin Regional Park welcomed thousands of people from all over Saskatchewan and Manitoba for the Living Skies Come Alive fireworks competition on the August Long weekend.

Kyle Jeannot, Moosomin Regional Park's Chair of Entertainment, says the weekend was a great turnout for the park.

"The weekend went really well. We figure we had about 3,000 people Saturday night, and around 2,800 on Sunday night

so a little bit of a lighter crowd.

"The beer gardens did really well. It was full both nights with both bands and the fireworks show obviously was great each night.

night.

"There was lots of kid activities, Flatland Plumbing and Heating had a dunk tank there and they donated \$1,000 to Playfair Daycare. The food trucks seemed happy and all of the vendors said they had a great turnout so it was really good this year."

#### Positive feedback

Jeannot says he has heard lots of positive comments from this year's fireworks competition.

"People really enjoyed it, and they said everything ran smoothly. We didn't have too many hiccups or any issues—there was a few places where we were short on volunteers for parking, but everybody was pretty happy with how the parking was situated, so it was a positive thing."

The park committee is happy with this

year's turnout. "I think if you look back you almost have to look back as if we're starting it all over again. We can't really compare it to last time prior to Covid when we had that last show, Canada versus China, and had 7,000 people one day. We have to think back to like 10 years ago, and just talking with some of the older board members or the committee members that had helped with years prior, they thought it was equivalent, if not better."

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## Jessica Campbell hosts first Prairie Built fundraiser

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Jessica Campbell was back in her home area in July, where she was the star attraction at a fundraiser in Rocanville for her Prairie Built Scholarship Foundation, attended the opening of Pro Hockey Life in Regina, and attended a fundraiser in Elkhorn along with Travis Sanheim and Sheldon Kennedy.

Kevin Weedmark interviewed Jessica in Regina. The complete interview follows.

You are here on the Prairies, among other things, to kick off your Prairie Built Foundation with a fundraiser which seemed to go well. Where did the idea come from for the foundation?

There was a lot of inspiration. I think the biggest thing for me was bringing it full circle. I've done a lot of reflecting this past season and obviously any time I come home to Saskatchewan or think about my hockey journey it takes me full circle back to where it started, and obviously that's Rocanville and Melville and home here to my Prairie roots, but I was very fortunate to receive a financial aid academic scholarship from the Potash Corp in high school, which allowed me to go to Cornell University and if I didn't receive that yearly commitment scholarship from the mine over my four years, I wouldn't have been able to go to Cornell and wouldn't have ended up where I am so I think that's a barrier, sometimes financial barriers are real for anyone, so to



Jessica Campbell answers questions on stage during her Prairie Built Foundation fundraiser in Rocanville on July 19.

able to be someone who is able to bring a community together and have a platform to rally people to invest back into growing opportunities for kids out of the Prairies. That's what I want to do, to give back and never forget where I am coming from and the communities that helped me get here, so it's come full circle.

How will the foundation work? Will it help young hockey players right across the Prairies?

"Yes, boys and girls, all Prairie based communities between Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta, obviously local initiatives even Rocanville and surrounding areas, just further youth sporting initiatives, but to start the scholarship fund will be awarded in the new year to a recipient who had a same type of story and someone who is trying to reach the next level and needs the financial step up.

That must have been a great first step, with the fundriaser in Rocanville. Any idea how much it raised in total.

"I don't know exactly, but definitely over \$80,000 if not closer to \$100,000. We just need to tally it up now."

You were in Rocanville last night, you're in Regina today, you're in Elkhorn later this week. How did all this come together.

"It's been a bit of a prairie tour. Honestly it was all kind of a close connection type fit. I actually was planning my event with Travis Sanheim, and then we bumped ours up a weekend earlier. He had a wedding conflict so he wasn't able to come last night, but I committed to going to his on Thursday, and I skated and grew up in Elkhorn a lot so for me to go there with Sheldon Kennedy was special. We skated a lot with the kids, we were all the same age and spent a lot of time at that rink, and Sheldon Kennedy I worked for, in Calgary and did a lot with his foundation. I'm excited to get to be part of that panel and join those guys to also raise money for Élkhorn Minor Hockey.

Continued on page 23 & 34 ☞





Some students who were part of Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party in previous years. The kitchen party offers musical camp activities and lessons, and festivals for all ages at Kenosee Lake for two weeks in August.

#### **Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party**

# Local music camp attracting artists from all over Saskatchewan

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

The Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party is an inclusive musical camp and festival that attracts local musicians and artists from all across Saskatchewan each summer.

Emily Dubois, an instructor and musician involved with the camp explains all the Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party has to offer, "The Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party in itself is a music camp that happens over the summertime. It is heavily fiddle and folk orientated, but over the past half a decade or so, it has also spread into a few other different genres. We have a little bit of a rock-based element to it as well now, we have an art element for those who want something visual, and over the years we have developed a dedicated portion of the camp specifically for kids."

She says the camp offers music classes and activities for all. "The camp itself is all ages. It is not a kids camp even though there is that element of kids activities. It's really curated for the entire family experience where there are things for adults and teens. Our rock portion of the camp that we now have is dedicated toward those teens that are more into the pop-rock scenes and fiddle-folk scenes."

#### Camp during day, music festival at night

Dubois says the camp runs two weeks with music performances through the week.

"We have two separate weeks of the camp that run with a slightly different variety of instructors, but the same sort of activities. We have people who come for one week and we have people that come regularly for both weeks because you get some new experiences and aside from lessons, workshops, and jamming that happens during the day, in the evening there is also our Kitchen Fest Festival which is where all of the artists that were busy teaching during the day then get to put on a different hat and put on a collaborative concert experience that is open to the public.

"The music festivals happen during the evening and run Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday both weeks of camp. It kind of runs in conjunction to the Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party (KLKP), it is different—it was born from being part of the KLKP."

#### Kids camp

Dubois explains the kids camp is an additional part of the Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party to help accommodate families.

"The kids camp runs inside of the regular kitchen party camp. It all happens at the same time—the kids camp runs on a slightly different schedule because we have found over the years that kids need slightly more breaks. Also with the kids camp to break it up more, we are doing more actual camp activities. They have their music and art portion that happen during the day and early afternoon, and then for the rest of the afternoon they get to go with the camp counsellors and go canoeing, swimming, nature walks, and other things you would experience at a regular summer camp.

"Both of the camps run Monday to Friday August 4-7 and then the next week Monday to Friday August 11-14. For both camps (kids and adults) you sign up for one specific instrument, but we offer a whole bunch of the different classes. For the kids camp, we offer fiddle lessons, guitar/singing lessons, we also offer a ukulele option for the kids. We started with those options as it is a slightly smaller program, but we know if there are people who are interested in piano we may be able to expand into something like that and offer a piano

#### **Tradition from east coast**

Dubois says kitchen parties are very popular in the Maritimes.

"The kitchen party name came straight from a type of so-

cial gathering that originated in the Maritimes, where at the time, it was a way to get together and hang out. Friends and family would gather at someone's house with instruments and they'd all bring food in sort of a kitchen and living room setting—people would play music, sing, dance, and socialize. It is something still common out in New Brunswick, PEI, Nova Scotia, and especially in Newfoundland. So the name kitchen party basically comes from the fact that they'd be basically be having a party in the kitchen."

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**Above**, Bernadette Akachuk with Bruce Standingready cutting the ribbon at the grand opening of the Splash Park.

At right, Ayla Lonechild enjoying the newly opened Splash Park at White Bear First Nation.



# White Bear First Nations holds grand opening for Splash Park

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

White Bear First Nation held a grand opening for their newly developed splash park on the east side of the First Nation on July 13.

The Splash Park will allow kids to enjoy summer activities outside and beat the heat close to home.

Bernadette Akachuk of White Bear First Nation led the project for kids on the reserve to enjoy during the summer months. "I am very excited. I always thought the

kids could use something like this.
"I never dreamt that we'd have something like this, never even thought about it ever, but you see the ones in the town and the cities and you wonder how it works

and who manages it. Well it's just an idea from people in the community."

The Splash Park project began seven years ago. "I started working on it in November 2018, and then it's a process of get-

ting grants, fundraising, and finally seeing it come to life. They started building it last year and recently just finished and added some grass," Akachuk said.

She explains the government grants utilized for the splash park.

"The Federal-Provincial ICIP program contributed \$355,000. Another program gave us \$100,000. I asked one of our programs here if they could lend us \$199,000 and it was so nice that they did because then I was able to put that down—with ICIP I was able to get it back."

#### **Future development**

Bruce Standingready of White Bear First Nation says the First Nation is working on future development for kids activities near the splash park.

"We're thinking of trying to build a ball diamond by the splash park, and a basketball court—it's supposed to be a recreation area. Hopefully in the future we're going to have a new subdivision near these recreational areas."

#### Chief Pasap

proud of Splash Park

Chief Jonathan Pasap attended the grand opening last Wednesday.

"It's great to see this open up for our children, our youth," Chief Pasap said. "It's more accessible for the youth. Because of socioeconomic issues some may not have vehicles or their parents are away, this allows the kids themselves to come here, and teenagers can come here. It's in walking distance, biking distance instead of having to go all the way to the lake resort where there are other splash parks there. This is great to see for their health and well-being."

Chief Pasap says they are planning future developments to grow youth recreational activities on the First Nation.

"We have of course the splash park now and the outdoor hockey rink. We want to make more playground structures, make this a hub for our youth, so that's our goal."

He says he is committed to further development, "It is always about improving our health, our wealth, and the unity for our people. We're about 17,000 acres in area and we want to make this sports and rec, health and well-being, cultural lands, and we want to make cultural lands for our powwows.

"We have subdivision planning for housing, infrastructure, we have some economic development plans as well with the lake resort and around the casino area too. These are many ideas and plans we have to improve the health and wellness of our people."







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# Airport Management Board established for Moosomin Airport

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

The Moosomin Airport project is moving forward, with an Airport Management Board being formed to look after operations at the airport.

The airport board is currently working on planning and installing permanent electrical and lighting for the runway and airport.

Kendra Lawrence, the Chief Administrative Officer of the RM of Moosomin, says the project is ongoing and the board will mske future decisions regarding the airport's development

"In regards to the airport, as for activity in the way of construction, that has ceased—it has been built, paved, and temporary lighting has been installed," she said. "Tender documents have been created for the electrical, but we felt we needed to move forward with the creation of an Airport Management Board. Seven appointed members from the region will look after the operation management for the forseeable future of the airport. The bylaw setting up the committee was passed at our June meeting.

"The seven individuals were pulled from around the region, I wouldn't say to represent each municipality—that is impossible because we have over 15 contributing municipalities, so we were looking at some business-minded individuals, ones who have aviation experience, different things like that pulling into the mix. Some were involved right from the beginning development of the project to some new individuals coming on at the management board level who maybe weren't part of the development process. Sometimes they give a different unique perspective of coming in as it's finished moving forward rather than having the previous knowledge of hick-ups in the way.

#### **Airport Management Board**

Lawrence explains the duties of the individuals who are part of the newly formed board.

"Ultimately that board is going to be the individuals that will look after the airport. Of course the ownership still remains by the RM, that doesn't change, it is just an extension of us. We know we have municipal duties to look after and an airport definitely has its own unique things to look after with Nav Canada, and Transport Canada regulations. It is a learning curve so we might as well look to the individuals who already have that knowledge and experience. Then, that gave us a greater sense of success with those individuals looking after things."

The seven individuals approached by the RM are from surrounding local communities

"The seven that we have approached— Olga McCarthy, Dr. Van, Jeff St. Onge, Colin Paull, Scott Andrew, Kristjan Hebert, and Rob Austin," Lawrence said. "The Chair and Vice-Chair also indicate in the bylaw that the council would appoint at least the first two individuals to be Chair and Vice-Chair so Jeff St. Onge was asked to be Chair and Olga McCarthy was asked as Vice-Chair. They're definitely still exploring all of their options. They are reviewing the bylaws and I believe they were scheduled to have a meeting as a group for further discussion to come up with thoughts, ideas, or suggestions. I believe that they are looking at other locations and other bylaws just to see in comparison that everything we have in ours will work. We know it is an ever-revolving document—not locked into anything so if there are suggestions there could be some changes coming forward."

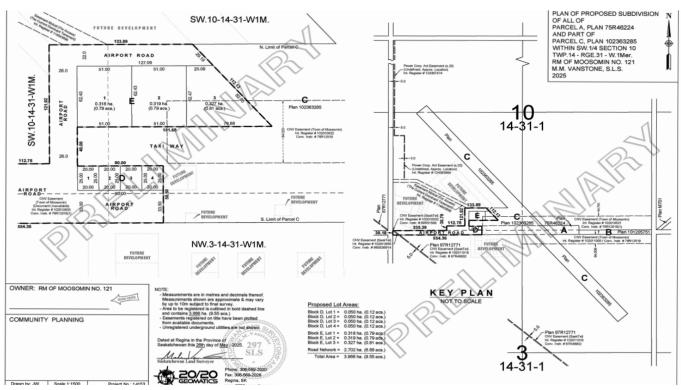
Lawrence explains the reasoning for the board's name.

"We can't call it an Airport Authority. That can only be in Regina and Saskatoon. It is something to do with their size and dynamics of international flights. So that is why we call it a Management Board with these seven individuals. They are supposed to be moving forward with incorporating the board as a nonprofit organization."

#### Airport being utilized

Lawrence says the Moosomin Airport has been busy with flights from all around Western Canada.

"I have heard lots of comments in regards to increased aerial applicators utilizing it.



A preliminary draft of future hangar development at the Moosomin Airport.

There are more companies using it. So our agriculture sector has increased availability of different companies and a quicker turnaround time because of course, they're landing here versus farther away and coming back. We have had quite a few small jets come and land, and some of them are coming from some very far distances and landing. There was one out of Alberta and it was something to do with a family reunion so he flew in from Alberta. There have been two planes from Vancouver that have landed at the airport as well."

Jeff St. Onge looks after the incoming aircraft at the Moosomin Airport.

"The thing with that is that we aren't always aware that they are coming," Lawarence said. "There isn't a pre-phone line to indicate that they are arriving. I think Jeff St. Onge sees a few more of those calls because I believe it's his phone number that is on the contact list if you googled Moosomin Airport. So I think he sometimes hears more of that if they are needing fuel or the possibility of a ride into the community. So he has done some of that and I know Rob Austin has also done rides and stuff for pilots wanting to come into town."

ing to come into town."

"We had a plane land when we were out there for the soft opening that we did and went out for a little tour, and all of a sudden this little plane comes in and he lands, and he was meeting somebody at The Red Barn for lunch," said Lawrence. "It is amazing how much it does get used. Dan Knisley, Director of Saskatchewan Air Ambulance says the air ambulance has accessed the Moosomin Airport eight times since the airport was expanded. Manitoba Air Ambulance has used it as well"

#### **Doctors thankful for airport**

Lawrence says the local physicians have really positive comments about the airport and say the flights have saved lives.

"The doctors like it due to the fact that extra accessibility with both STARS and the Air Ambulance able to serve the area, that if one can't because they are out on another pick-up, the other can be used, because sometimes Sask Air Ambulance is available, but STARS isn't—it is not that STARS has been replaced—they are both being utilized—they are both an air ambulance service and whichever one works the best is what they are utilizing when they make the call."

#### Next steps

Lawrence says the Airport Management Board will determine the next steps regarding lights and further development.

"The lights at the airport right now are temporary. We have a design plan for permanent electrical, but they felt that could be an asset for the Management Board to handle and see where they want to go with that—whether they just look at the apron and taxiway lighting to replace the temporary lighting that is there and then split the project and do the weather station two years from now to ensure there is some funding there for the operation purposes. We are also in the process of a subdivision out there. We focused on the land base that was owned by the RM

"We have a development plan so there is a possibility for future development which would tie into what we are currently doing. The RM is willing to sell the land that we own and that we are subdividing because we are making three commercial hanger size lots—they are slightly larger—and then there are four more of the smaller ones for more private-type hangers by the apron. That subdivision application is in Community Planning currently. So we sent that in six weeks ago so sometimes their turnaround time can be anywhere from three to six months. They had to forward the subdivision plan to Nav Canada and Nav Canada says right on their website that there could be a 12-week turnaround for that. We are hoping we will have titled property by the fall.

"That again will be the Management Board's decision. Ultimately those are fees and a revenue stream they can ask to retain, but that will be up to the Management Board to determine what kind of rate they want to set and market value. The indication from stakeholders has always been they wanted titled lots. We will be, I believe, the first one with actual titled property for hanger space at an airport. Most airports are leased which when we spoke with stakeholders they felt if they had owned property it of course makes it easier to obtain funding a mortgage, financing to put up a larger structure, and then they might put up two. They might put up one that much larger because they know that they have some protection by having that owned property out there. So it changes the design a bit because you have to make sure there are land roads and air roads and they cannot touch. So the planes can't drive where the road traffic would go and vice versa, so they don't touch in the plan."

She says the RM has had questions from locals about lots available at the airport.

"We've had some people asking about the lots for quite some time. There is a list that would be published and they can reach out to the Management Board. Then, the board can also determine whether they are proceeding with further development or reach out to work with a developer, but that is going to be up to them.".

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# Saskatchewan and SHA announce 124 new frontline positions for health care providers in rural facilities

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

The Saskatchewan Health Authority along with the provincial government have announced the creation of 124 total frontline positions offered in rural and remote health care facilities across the 45 communities in the province.

Earlier, 47 new clinical management positions were created, and Wednesday the province announced 77 new frontline clinical positions in 30 communities around the

In our area, Moosomin, Broadview, Redvers, and Kipling have been announced among the 30 communities receiving additional funding and supports for health care positions.

The Minister of Rural and Remote Health, Lori Carr, says the recent announcement will help reinforce health care services in the province's rural health care facilities.

"In collaboration with the government, the Saskatchewan Health Authority is adding 77 new and enhanced permanent full-time positions, across 30 rural and remote communities. This is part of our ongoing effort to stabilize access to health care in rural and remote communities. These enhancements are building on the success of previous rural and remote staffing programs that we have in

"We actually introduced 315 new and enhanced positions in 2022 as part of the Health Human Resource Action Plan and we are pleased to say that all of those positions have been filled.'

The Minister explains the elimination of administrative positions across the province has funded these new health care provider positions.

Now, as we move onto this direction that we are taking, we had actually done some restructuring earlier this year which generated \$10.4 million in efficiencies. Of those savings, \$6.2 million will now be used for this project that we are taking on for the 77 new positions and just previous to this, we had invested \$4.2 million of those savings into the creation of 27 new and 20 enhanced clinical manager positions across 45 rural and northern communities. We did that because we were hearing from our smaller facilities that there were no managers in the facilities that they could go to directly with their concerns and had to wait time for getting issues resolved that should be pretty simple. So we took some administrator leadership roles and we deleted those roles and put them into these 47 positions that I am talking about within the rural facilities. That was really well received by people on the ground. Now, with the 77 new and enhanced positions that we are doing-they do focus on communities that continued to experience service disruption or have faced ongoing staffing challenges so that is how we chose the communities and of course, we worked with them when we were deciding where the new positions would go, where we would be making those part-time into full-time positions, and so in working with the facilities hopefully that will help stabilize them.

Carr explains some of the new full-time positions will be

filled by current employees working part-time.

When you post positions it is a matter of waiting for that right person to come along especially when it is a new position. So hopefully with the collaboration that we have done with the health authority and the facilities, some of the part-time positions that are going to full-time, may be filled by the person that is already in place, so it won't be that difficult to fill.

#### Access to health care close to home

Carr says these new additional positions will help provide access to health care closer to home for rural commu-

"I think when we look at our rural facilities they are remote compared to the larger tertiary centres like Saskatoon, Regina, and Prince Albert, so providing that access to patients close to home as best we can—it is really important to the people who live in the province of Saskatchewan. By doing initiatives like this it places those employees in those facilities so you can access those services close to home."

#### New positions in four surrounding communities

Carr explains the new full-time positions created in four local communities.

"This is really exciting for your area. Specifically in Moosomin, we're going to add one new position and that can either be a Registered Nurse (RN) or a Registered Psychiatric Nurse (RPN), either-or can fill that new position. We have one Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) that right now, is a permanent part-time position that we are going to take to a full-time position. So what we're hearing from the facility by changing that to a full-time position it will help provide

"In Kipling, we have two RN and RPN positions available so it could either be a Registered Nurse or the Registered Psychiatric Nurse, two positions total, and we are taking a permanent part-time to a full-time, and a temporary part-time and making it a permanent full-time position. When we look at the rural facilities sometimes we hear offering a part-time position isn't enough to get somebody to move to a rural community, but if we can offer them a permanent full-time position then it is more certainty for them to take that next step, get the housing, and move to

"In Redvers," we have the two positions as well, currently RN and RPN, they're both permanent part-time and we are taking them both to permanent full-time.

"In Broadview, we have one LPN permanent part-time and we are taking it to permanent full-time. Just by taking those to full-time positions we have heard from the facilities that they think that will help with the recruitment and that is why we think some of these changes will be suc-

Carr says overstaffing could be a positive response in the future with these additional positions.

"I mean if something happens along the way and we fill all of our full-time positions and a facility has a part-time position available and they have the budget, there is nothing saying that they can't use that person to help fill some gaps, but that would put in an overstaffing, but of course you have to watch the scheduling and that kind of stuff wouldn't that be a great position to be in. Where you have someone extra that can come in and fill vacation time, fill sick time, all of that kind of stuff without drawing on existing resources.'

147 additional frontline positions

Carr explains the funding aspect of the additional positions within the 45 communities across the province. "In June of 2025, the SHA implemented a series of changes aimed at directing more resources to point of care including the restructuring of administrative leadership roles which generated the \$10.4 million in efficiencies. At that point in time, I believe it was 27 management positions were eliminated and were administrative in nature, and then of that \$10.4 million, \$4.2 has already been directed to the curation of the 27 new and the 20 enhanced clinical manager positions in the 45 rural and northern communities.

"Having more of those clinical manager positions in the

facilities helps staff have more direct access to them, and then the remaining \$6.2 million is being directed to support the addition of these 77 new and enhanced positions. So by eliminating those administrative positions we have been able to get 47 new managers directly in facilities and 77 new and enhanced positions so a total of 124 frontline

#### Labour shortages across the

Carr says all sectors across Saskatchewan are seeing issues with labour shortage.

"I wouldn't say this is just focused on health care when we talk about smaller communities, trades, and even frontline staff at a Tim Hortons, labour is an issue right across the province and right across the country to be quite frank.

In my position, I am focused on trying to get people to come to rural communities to fill these positions, and I think once we get some of these positions filled—whether it be a physician or a nurse or a lab tech—showing them what rural Saskatchewan really has to offer from a community perspective is really important.

"I know some communities—and I know Moosomin is really good at this—welcoming them into the community. Making them part of organizations there and making it their home."

I think once people live in a rural community I am not really sure why they would want to go back to big city liv-

#### **Future of health care** in rural Saskatchewan

The Minister says she hopes the new positions in rural and remote health care facilities will help locals across the province continue to receive health care services close to

"I really hope that this accomplishes the young generations parents, mom and dads, the older generations grandchildren, being able to access care as close to home as possible. We are always going to need the big tertiary centres for more of the major services, but when you want to access a primary care provider, whether that be a doctor, nurse practitioner, a pharmacist, that you can actually do that right in your home community as close to home."



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# Young calls Sask 'energy superpower' during event in Belle Plaine, government, industry call for increased rail capacity

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

In the mining world, Saskatchewan has a lot to brag about, and the provincial government is saying the province is poised to make Canada an energy and mining superpower.

Coming off an Energy and Mines Ministers Conference in Prince Edward Island, Colleen Young realized exactly how Saskatchewan is leading the way for growth across Canada.

"I was proud to discuss how innovative Saskatchewan is in our energy and resource sectors," said the provincial Energy and Resources Minister. "Ministers from across the country explored how addressing the challenges in the resource sectors can serve as opportunities for growth nationwide. The largest takeaway for me was that it is clear that Saskatchewan is leading the charge in many of these areas. A major focus of this meeting was on the need to build a strong, secure and competitive resource sector across Canada, and from a Saskatchewan perspective, we are in a great position to help manage that change."

Front and centre for Young was seeking federal support for transportation.

T advocated for substantial federal investment in building national energy infrastructure and corridors to transport reserves resource products to tide water," she said. "I also emphasized the need for streamlined and predictable approval of large resource projects to attract investment from development countries and to ensure Canada's supply chains remain secure and reliable."

Of the talks in PEI, Young noted they paved the way to find ways to not only promote Saskatchewan on a greater scale, but "how we can make Canada an energy and minerals superpower."

"It was refreshing to feel the unity in those discussions, which I'm hopeful will lead to more access for Canadians to reliable, affordable energy and wealth generated by our vast resources," Young "With Saskatchewan's robust and expanding resource sectors, we are and have been positioning the province to contribute significantly to Canada's emergence as a global energy superpow-

Highlighting the importance of mining in the province, Pam Schwann, President of the Saskatchewan Mining Association, broke down some interesting numbers.

"The mining sector continues to be one of Saskatchewan's pivotal economic drivers, directly employing over 11,000 people with an annual payroll of over \$1.7 billion, consistently ranking among the province's top contributors to GDP and direct government rev-

enues," she said. "In 2024, Saskatchewan's mining industry purchased over \$3 billion in goods and services from Saskatchewan businesses, including over \$900 million from Indigenous-owned businesses. In 2025, Saskatchewan mining companies will make over \$7 billion in capital investments with our exploration members contributing over \$425 million annually to discover new deposits."

#### A tour of **Belle Plaine**

Young and Schwann

were among a group of dignitaries invited to a quick tour of the Mosaic Belle Plaine potash solution mine last week, giving industry leaders the opportunity to highlight some of the triumphs and challenges facing the energy sector in Saskatchewan.

"Potash is one of Saskatchewan's 27 critical minerals, and we at Mosaic would say it's the most critical as it is essential to helping the world grow the food it needs," said Marnel Jones, Director of Government and Public Affairs for The Mosaic Company.

"Our facility here at Belle Plaine has been producing potash for over 60 years. Mosaic's approximately 500 employees at this site and 2,000 province wide are foundational to the Saskatchewan mining story."

The first and largest solution mine in the world, the Belle Plaine facility produces nearly three million tonnes of finished potash products annually.

Right: Colleen Young, Minister of Energy and Resources





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# Airport Management Board established for Moosomin Airport

™ Continued from page 6

#### Fully funded project

Lawrence says the airport project is fully funded.

port project is fully funded. "Everything is covered. Currently there is not quite \$1.1 million in the bank, is it just under. The estimation from a 2018 construction estimate for the electricalincluding a building for housing those components, everything we needed, the lighting and navigation system—was \$1.2 million, but we have a building put up and it went up for a lot less than what was estimated so that should bring that down. We feel that the construction should be below the estimation of the \$1.2 million, but of course there still needs to be funds to continue with operation. They don't want to spend everything that is in the account on the electrical. So there could still be some more room for some more fundraising or contributions, donations, and again that will be the Management

Board and what they determine on how they want to move forward with further funding. We have also heard that once the Management Board was established that there are some waiting in the wings for contributions, but they were waiting for the Management Board to be developed so lots of different comments are floating around."

Further fees and costs for the airport will be determined by the Management Board.

"It is up to the board to determine if they are going to have



The new runway at Moosomin airport.

landing fees, if there is any area out there that they would sooner do lease fees—that would be for them to determine," explained Lawrence. "There was conversation about fuel so instead of landing fees you have to buy your fuel there—lots of different options that they can choose. There was an area designed for storage of airports so we have heard that there are places at the larger centres that just store planes in the back and charge a rate. So we have designed an area where we could have planes tied down and stored for the winter and they

would pay a fee for such. As for hanger taxes, the RM has always indicated that they would put that back to that area, because that is specifically coming from that area so it should be utilized for the airport. When there are hangers developed, beyond what we already have, that would go into that to feed operation and management."

#### Direction from other airports on future steps

The RM of Moosomin has been in contact with a provincial air-

port to learn future steps in developing the Moosomin airport.

"The board has always been in the back of our mind as we move forward that it was going to be a requirement or a need. We had been in communications with Moose Jaw quite regularly because they developed the Moose Jaw Airport Authority. They have a complete website of what the airport is there, the bylaws, and we are actually utilizing the same legal counsel Moose Jaw used to draft and assist with all of the nonprofit registration and the bylaws and suggestions, be-

cause there was a couple individuals who had said it seemed to be working very well there and their board and executive is evolving as the board grows. So you get past the infancy stage and you're up and running the way it is established and appointed and the individuals have migrated into something else and changed things. I could see that is where we could go, but we are only in the infancy stage so baby steps to start with."

Lawrence explains the previous steps with the airport project before getting to this point. "In 2018 is when we began the conversations of trying to move forward with this development. The announcement where Nutrien and the province announced they would take part in funding was in February of 2023 so we have done a lot in those two years. It seems like a long time ago, but there is a lot that has happened in that time frame.

"I think we all thought we would have the lighting in fully by now, but there were some alterations and changes that were required to make it feasible. We

will get there."

#### Saskatchewan Air Ambulance

Lawrence adds, "We've had a lot of questions about the cost of Sask Air Ambulance and utilizing the air ambulance and that is on the Ministry of Saskatchewan website under Ambulance Services. They list both STARS and Air Ambulance. It's \$465 per flight and then you have to pay for ground ambulance service to and from the airport. We had a couple of comments asking about the cost of the trips."



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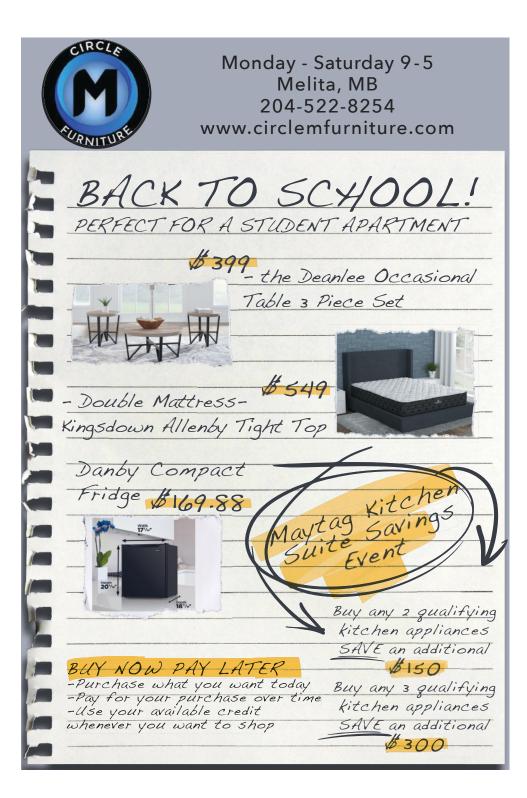


# Travis Sanheim, Jessica Campbell, Sheldon Kennedy in Elkhorn for Sportsman's Dinner

Travis Sanheim, Jessica Campbell, and Sheldon Kennedy were all in Elkhorn on July 24 for the EDCC Sportsman's Dinner. The dinner was a fundraiser for the Elkhorn rink. At the end of the night, Travis Sanheim announced a \$5,000 donation to the rink on top of any proceeds raised by the event. The event also included a silent auction, and dance.



Far left: Travis Sanheim and Jessica Campbell speaking. Left: Sheldon Kennedy speaking.





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# Thousands attend fireworks competition

™ Continued from front

#### **Back next year**

Jeannot says the committee plans to renew the August Long Fireworks Competition as an annual event again.

"We are definitely planning on doing it next year. We are maybe going to try to keep it a Canadian thing for now, maybe see if we can get someone further out west, or there was a discussion maybe an east coast thing and then try and have an east coast theme, getting some food trucks with seafood and that theme so that is in the back of our mind.

"Obviously it's only a week past. We are looking at maybe doing more local talent the first night of the beer gardens instead of bringing in two bands next year. We do have a lot of local talent in the area and so we think let's give them some exposure."

#### **Alberta Fireworks Champions**

Jeannot says the fireworks were judged by locals this year, who gave the win to Alberta.

"We actually had super expert judges. So we had two judges and then three girls judging that are quite heavily involved in dance and it worked out well because there were things that I didn't notice that they were telling me about. For instance, the first night only had four songs to it where the second night had five songs in the same amount of time, the fireworks were more on beat and timed better the second night. They had a whole list of reasons. They did a really good job at it.

"So for next year we are going to try and get the Alberta team back to try and defend their title."

Jeannot says the market drew in a big crowd at the park this year. "The market helped pull a lot of people in this year. I also think just in general people being able to come back and enjoy the entertainment, and just being able to get together with family—there were a lot of family reunions and gatherings out there this weekend, which was great to see. Then you're getting all of the younger people coming out to enjoy the show too and people just bring their family for the day to enjoy the

Jeannot adds visitors travelled from all over southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba for the event.

'We had travellers from Regina, Brandon, a lot of Manitoba people, some from Estevan and Weyburn area. There were some people travelling through town just by chance, a couple from Louisiana, and two guys from Australia—they just happened to be passing through. The two guys from Australia came through a week before and found out about the show and stayed and they were just traveling across Canada, so that tech-



Kids on the beach at Moosomin Lake during the August long weekend.

nically was our furthest, but the farthest travel just for the show was Regina and Brandon. Which I think is a big draw for people to come for the weekend. The hotels were busy too, we were talking to Canalta and they said they were booked up solid with people coming out on the long weekend."

#### Thankful for volunteers

Jeannot says many community groups helped volunteer during the long weekend.

'We had hired the Filipino group to help with parking so they helped us with that, and we are going to make a donation to the Terry Lynd Basketball Court to thank them. We actually had a cabin owner and seasonal site owner meeting two weeks before the event and passed around a piece a paper with what people could do to help, and by the end of that we had it pretty much full.

"Moosomin Age Friendly stepped up and helped sell 50/50s. The volunteers turned out really well. There were a few places we could have had a few more hands, but overall we were covered. The volunteers were a huge help."

He says the winner of their 50/50 from the weekend has decided to donate some of their winnings back.

"We ended up grossing \$16,200 so we gave away

\$8,100. Lori Shepherd from Moosomin won it, and she's making a donation back. We are trying to put all of that 50/50 money toward the playground for the camping area up top for the kids, because they don't really have a play structure up there so that's our goal to get that rolling and when she heard that she had won she was pretty excited, and we are so excited she has decided she is going to make a donation back."

#### Great fundraiser for lake

Jeannot says the August Long Fireworks Competition is a great fundraiser to maintain and update Moosomin

Regional Park.
"We definitely broke even. So far, all that I know is that we made money on was the 50/50 as of right now, we have a meeting in the next few weeks just to see how the park did. It's a fundraiser to improve the area, and put money back into the park so everything that gets raised from this event turns around and goes back into the park. It's not our goal to go and raise a bunch of money either though, our goal is to provide entertainment for the public and to have people come out, camp, enjoy the show, enjoy some live music, and have a good weekend."

He adds, "We can actually relax now and not be worried about how it's going to turn out. You know in the back of your mind you're always like 'Okay, we sold this many wrist bands,' and always watching the weather, and the lake has had good weather each year on August Long. They've never had a bad weekend. This year on Sunday was a little gloomy but it wasn't horrible. It's better than 40 degrees in the sun. I'm glad it has passed and it will be good to see how the fundraising turned



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Some scenes from Jess Moskaluke's new music video on YouTube called, 'I Ain't Country'. The music video was shot locally around Southeast Saskatchewan, on a farm at Langenburg and at the World-Spectator office in Moosomin.

# Jess Moskaluke shoots music video locally, plans some shows close to home

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

Local country star, Rocanville's Jess Moskaluke, recorded a new single called 'I Ain't Country' this summer.

Moskaluke recorded the music video for the single in Langenburg and Moosomin a few weeks ago. It is now available to watch on YouTube.

She came up with the song in response to an International blogger who criticized her as not being country

"The song is called 'I Ain't Country' and basically it was inspired by a blogger that actually came out of the UK who had reviewed a show of mine and had some complaints that I wasn't country enough or my songs didn't resonate or didn't scream Canadian and I thought that was really funny coming from someone in London, England. It really inspired me to write about that. There have been several comments about it over the last 15 years, but that was the one that put me over the edge.

"I always wanted to show them exactly that this is my everyday life, this is where I live and it's just a little ironic to throw stones from a glass house in that way. I am country and that is what the video and the song is all about, and that is not going to change."

#### Plans for video changed

Moskaluke says they originally planned to shoot the music video in Toronto.

"We talked about not necessarily doing it locally just because oftentimes renting production and gathering a team can admittedly be a lot more convenient in the city. So we talked about shooting it in Ontario—somewhere in the Toronto area—because that's where my director Connor Scheffler is from, and then when we started trying to source things I was like this is ridiculous—all of these things we are trying to source are going to be challenging to get in Toronto and expensive likely, and they all just exist on my mom's farm.

"The reason I actually didn't necessarily want to shoot it locally initially is because I have already done that a number of times throughout my career and I didn't want to reinvent the wheel and I didn't want to do something that I have already done, so it was a bit of a challenge to make sure that it looked different while still recognizable and playing to the treatment that Connor created. So

we shot at my Mom's farm and at the Moosomin World-Spectator."

#### Local actors highlighted in music video

Moskaluke says the video involves many local people. "The video itself turned out so much better than I had pictured. Connor was really great and a lot of the inspiration and references that he had were really accurate and we were very much on the same page the whole time.

"I love how tongue-in-cheek this video is—it totally matches the song and it's just a cherry on top to have local people, familiar faces, and places in it just to further prove the point to this blogger that will probably never see this again anyway, but it was great. The only out-of-town person that was involved was Connor, my director. We ended up needing to find a production team, rent equipment, and stuff so Josh Deramas from Filcad Productions was so kind and it was great to have him and his team come out and do a lot of the heavy lifting in terms of actually shooting the video, and then everyone else that is in the video is from Rocanville or Langenburg."

Continued on page 42 🖙

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The exterior of the nearly completed Rocanville Aquatic Centre which the town is hoping will be opened this fall.

# Rocanville pool nearing completion

by Kara Kinna

Rocanville's aquatic centre is nearing completion, with hopes to be open this fall.

"Right now they are getting close, they are just working on finishings," says Rocanville Rec Director Andrea Logan. "The plumbers and electricians are in there, we have tilers in and they're doing tiles in the bathroom. It's all coming together.

"It's all that time consuming work at the end of a project, and we have the tank liner that still needs to be done and the deck floor, so we are working on those things.

"As far as opening we are still hoping to have the pool open for staff training in the early fall and open to the public around a month or so after that. We need time to be able to get in there, get everything cleaned up and set up, get the staff in there and fully trained, because it is a new floorprint of the building, the tank itself is the same, but there are some other changes that we have to take into consideration when we are training our staff and getting ready for the public."

Logan says they are currently hiring staff.

"We are accepting applications for lifeguards right now," she says. "It's hard to hire if you don't really know for sure when your start date is, but we are getting closer to having an actual date."

Logan says no photos of the interior of the building are being shared right now as they committee overseeing the restoration wants it to be a surprise when people finally see the finished building. "We've decided to leave it a secret and do a reveal," says Logan.

Logan says all of the contracts for the project have been filled, and now it's just a matter of waiting on the final finishing work before the pool can open its doors.

Once the pool is open, the plan is for a year-round facility as long as there is demand, as it is the only indoor pool of its size in the area.

"The plan is to be open year round if the public is using it," says Logan. "There will be times that we have it closed for maintenance, we will have to close it at some point in time to clean all our filters and give the tank a good cleaning and things like that. I think we will probably do that in the warmer months and have the pool open in the winter.

"It seems like everyone goes away in the summer—you want to be outside and at the lakes—so we feel that the pool will be better used in the winter months.

"We want to run lots of cool programs, maybe work with some of the hockey teams, maybe they wouldn't mind renting the pool for training purposes. We would like to add more programs. There are things we are thinking of doing, but again we can't set a schedule yet, nothing is concrete but we have lots of ideas."

Fundraising for the new facility is ongoing.

"Our fundraising committee is still actively fundraising—they just did a progressive 50/50 at the Jessica Campbell Golf tournament and they raised a little over \$2,000 with that, and they had the brisket cookoff that was in June."

Logan says it feels great to see the project nearing completion after so many years of talking about it and planning for it.

"It is very exciting and also overwhelming. I'm really excited about it," she says. "I've been in the pool throughout this entire process watching it go up and watching the progress. It was a really emotional thing when the old building came down, but now it's getting really exciting with it looking so nice inside, and I really think the community is going to be happy with it once they get to see it and use it and realize what it can offer for our community. It's just really exciting.

"I think we should be proud of ourselves. It was a big project and it was a lot of asking "can we do this? Is this going actually happen?" And it's happening.

"It's going to be open to the public before too long so I think the entire community should be proud."



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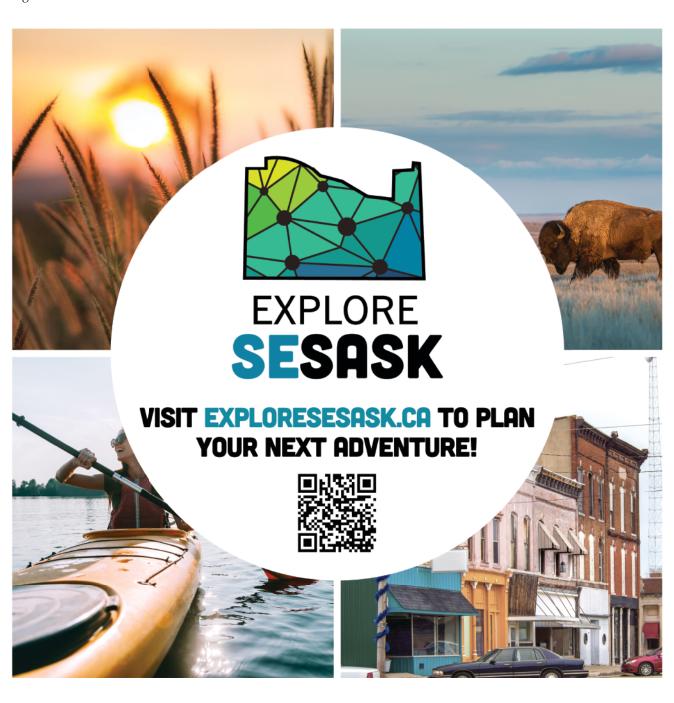
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# Wagantall not running in next federal election

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

In the midst of a sleepy, summer afternoon on July 28, Yorkton-Melville Member of Parliament Cathay Wagantall made an announcement that she will not seek a fifth term when the next federal election is called.

"First of all, I absolutely love my job, and I love the riding," she said. "For me, another election and then another four years at this point in my life is a commitment that I don't think I would be able to do to the extent it would need to be done. Also, it would be unfair to someone else who is possibly looking at serving, not having the runway in front of them to be able to prepare. I was very blessed when I ran, Garry (Breitkreuz, previous Yorkton-Melville MP) gave me the opportunity. There was time for me to get out and get to know the riding, to get to know people, and to build my case for the nomination.

"I am prepared to continue on, I am still a Member of Parliament, and I will do due diligence," continued Wagantall. "My staff, of course, are aware, but they are as committed as ever. Transitions are never easy, even good ones. There's challenges involved. So that's why I wrote the news release that I did—I just wanted folks to know right up front that I love the job, I love the people that I get the privilege of working with and working for."

Wagantall was first elected MP in the Yorkton-Melville riding on Oct. 19, 2015 after having won the Conservative nomination 11 months earlier. She's the third MP in the riding as NDP Lorne Nystrom won the first contest in 1968 and Breitkreuz was elected in 1993. The riding has also grown substantially, now with a population of more than 71,000 in 43,272 square kilometres.

"We just inherited Carrot River and Tobin Lake, which is, for me, a drive of four hours," Wagantall said. "I was just up there last weekend, it was awesome! I met with Carrot River Council, with the RM, with the folks up at Tobin Lake, and went to a rodeo. It's wonderful to be engaged in that way, to hear from them, and for them to know that you have their backs on the Hill. It is an expansive riding, that's for sure."

In the most recent federal election—a little more than three months ago—Wagantall secured 77.5 per cent of the popular vote which was not only her strongest lead, but the largest percentage in the history of the riding

#### Wagantall says MP role a privilege

Of her time in Ottawa, Wagantall noted "it's been a privilege to do three private members bills over the course of this time, and to serve on the standing committee for Veterans Affairs."

On the topic of entering politics, Wagantall said that MPs are regular citizens that answer a particular calling.

"And that applies to even at the local and provincial level," she added. "Often, you face the hardships of dealing with people's circumstances that aren't the best, but at the same time, you know people do it for the right reasons. You can't paint everybody with that 'politician' brush. It's been a decade and I still don't think of myself as a politician! Obviously, my heart is for Canada, and I certainly hope that we have opportunity as the province



Yorkton-Melville MP Cathay Wagantall will not seek re-election in the next federal election.

of Saskatchewan and Alberta to have some real significant influence over this government."

Enacting that change sometimes looks different than what those outside the political realm might see. One example is the Conservative support of Bill C-5, the One Canadian Economy Act, which was initiated by the Lib-

"There was a lot of concern over a lot of the issues within that legislation, and folks kind of went, 'oh my goodness, they're supporting the government'," Wagantall said. "Well, we supported the government to get it to committee, and people often don't understand that vote gets it to committee so you can truly digest it, break it down, and hopefully have good amendments."

As Wagantall explained, Bill C-5 ended up with 13 amendments and the votes of Bloc Québécois members.

"Right now, the NDP are not on committee, and we were able to put a number of checks and balances into that legislation that will really protect the provinces and constituents with good decision making," Wagantall said. "Of course, we're still dealing with the fact that all of those environmental legislative bills that hamper our economy across the board still exist. He's (Prime Minister Mark Carney) willing to remove them for his 10 projects, but, again, it's picking winners and losers, and there's a lot of productivity that's just waiting to happen. It should be the opportunity that Canadians deserve.

Wagantall believes a fall election might not be out of

"For me, my preference is that this Prime Minister does what he promised and brings forward a proper budget to the House in the fall," she said. "In which case, I'm fairly confident that we would probably see the government fall just on the basis of financially—in the spending that he has already done. That goes far and beyond what was happening previously that was concerning Canadians."

The Liberals have been in power during Wagantall's time as an MP, and while she says it would have been nice to have the opportunity to serve in government, she pointed to a larger cause.

"Yes, I would love to have had the opportunity to serve in government, but the goal is to bring them down and to form a majority government so things can get done that Canadians need," she said. "We have an amazing new cohort of caucus senators, and of course, we're looking forward to Pierre (Poilievre) winning this by-election and getting back in the House where he should be."

#### Life after politics

Behind every MP is a team of family and friends supporting their efforts. However, Wagantall's team is also looking forward to having her around more often, too.

"I've got some pretty happy campers," she said of her grandkids. "You'll always hear, 'I'm leaving because of family,' and to some degree, that is always part of a decision to make a major shift in where you are and what you're doing. That will certainly be the case for me, I can assure you. My husband has been like my two right arms in this huge riding in addition to running our business, so I'm very grateful."

She also expressed gratitude to her team and biggest fans, acknowledging the motivation and inspiration they

provide.

"I am incredibly grateful to my professional, capable, and passionate staff both past and present on Parliament Hill and in the Constituency," Wagantall noted. "I know they are the very best because of the constant positive feedback I receive. I simply could not do justice to my responsibilities without them."

As for the purpose and driving force behind why she

chose to enter politics at the federal level in the first place,

Wagantall returned to her family.

"I am beyond thankful for the support of my husband and best friend," she noted. "He is always by my side in spirit when we are apart, and more often than not, deeply engaged as we choose to do life together in every way, every day. To our precious three, their amazing spouses, and our 10 incredible grandchildren—our gifts from God—please know that although it may be hard to fully understand at times, you are the reason I serve Canada in this way."

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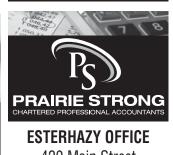
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#### **Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party**

## Local music camp attracting artists from all over Saskatchewan

™ Continued from page 4

"It never really happened to the same extent on the Prairies, but we are bringing that same kitchen party element to the Prairies in the form of a camp where people can enjoy all of the best elements of the kitchen party as well as getting an educational setting on their interests—we do all sorts of workshops with music and dance. We are bringing all of those elements from the Atlantic Kitchen Parties into our own kitchen party at Kenosee Lake," explained Dubois.

#### Musical gathering for many years

The KLKP has been a successful musical camp for the past two decades.

"This camp has actually been running for almost 20 years," Dubois said. "My family has a cabin at Kenosee Lake and I actually was there the first year it was created back in 2005. It organically started very small as a one-week camp and then one year, it reached capacity, and they expanded it by adding an extra week."

She says she attended the camp growing up to take fiddle

"I attended as a student pretty much every year up until Covid. I interned for the kids camp portion a little bit back when they first started it, but the camp itself has existed for almost 20 years—the reason it is not its 20th year anniversary is because they missed a year for Covid. So it is technically its 19th year running the entire camp in general.

"They didn't have the kids portion of the camp when it first began. When I was six and attended my first camp I was in fiddle lessons with my mom since we took the same class together. There is a kids camp that runs within it now, but the whole camp is something that a huge demographic of people enjoy, and you can start with basically no experience or you can come with a lot of experience."

She explains her role now with helping run the camp dur-

ing the two early weeks in August.

"I started as a student and then I worked my way through to become an instructor at the camp. This year the second week I will be teaching the kids camp. I am on site both weeks as an operational hand. They've had some funding for summer student positions through the government and I've been hired to specifically help promote and expand the evening Kitchen Fest as a whole—how can we add to this music festival to make it more of a music festival that appeals to a larger audience—so that has been my role over the summer. I am onsite both weeks assisting with the experience of the Kitchen Fest in the evenings, but I am onsite as a musician, as a teacher the second week, and probably as a teaching hand if people need me.

'I live in Regina currently. I grew up 15 minutes from Kenosee Lake originally, but I am a fiddle teacher. I run the Flatland Fiddling Studio out of Regina so during the year I teach full time and gig on the side playing for myself and other various bands. When I am not doing either of those I am trying to jam with people."

#### Fiddle musicians from all over world

Dubois says the camp is heavily fiddle and folk based mu-

"It is fiddle-based so we always have a huge variety of fiddle artists that we bring in from across Canada, from the States, from Ireland, and Scotland, all different places at dif-

"Another thing about a kitchen party is the instrumentation. At a kitchen party music you would hear would be fiddles, accordions, guitars, pianos, or maybe a banjo. That is why those specific instruments are used at kitchen parties and why kitchen party music is focused around is folk.

The Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party offers many music classes for beginners and experienced musicians from all over

"We run fiddle classes, guitar classes, piano classes, we've expanded over the years to run things like banjo classes, mandolin classes, cello classes, voice classes," Dubois explained. "We have Aleksi Campagne who is coming in this year as an artist to have some amazing classes in the evening, but also do like specific classes based around accompanying yourself with a fiddle, like she is a fiddle singer. There are lots of different things. We've even had someone come in to do accordion a couple of times over the years, but the camp is mostly adults that bring their kids. Then, we have developed this kids camp to accommodate those adults on vacation with their family."

#### KLKP Music Festivalopen to public

Dubois says the artists are showcased during music performances in the evenings that are open to the public.

'The KLKP Fest which is the festival portion that runs in conjunction with the Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party, those concerts happen each Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday night both weeks. The concerts start at 7 pm and are roughly about two and a half hours with an intermission.

"Then, after Monday and Tuesday night concerts we do a little bit of a dance maybe a couple of waltzes, two-steps, or pattern dances like a Virginia reel. The Wednesday night we don't dance afterwards, but we do extra jamming, extra campfires, and the reason we do that instead is because we run a slightly longer artist concert that night. Then, on Thursday night we also run a show, but it is completely dance-based. So we do half of the night old-time dance, it is still open to the public, you need no experience to come, we teach you all of the dances there, and then after that intermission we bring all of our rock artists on.

"We have people like Rob Skeet who does Elton John covers and stuff like that. They basically do a rock show for the last half and we have got the floor cleared so people can dance on those Thursday nights."

**Background of Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party** 

Dubois explains the founders' connection to fiddling and her reasoning for the kitchen party at Kenosee Lake.

"The director, organizer, and creator of this camp, Michele Amy, who originally lived in Carlyle, grew up listening to old-time fiddle music with her parents. She played piano growing up, and she didn't really play the fiddle until she had kids of her own.

"One of her tween daughters, at the time, expressed interest in playing the fiddle and so she looked into it, and was interested herself. There used to be a fiddle camp in Emma Lake it was called the Emma Lake Fiddle Camp. It ran for many years until it ended in 2008, but it was the first fiddle camp in Canada to ever run. It was in Saskatchewan and they'd bring artists from all over Canada and beyond. Fiddle players like Jerry Holland were brought to Emma Lake Fiddle Camp—it really cultivated more of a fiddle feeling in Saskatchewan and it pushed it out to other communities as well. She was able to attend camps like that and once she started to learn the fiddle, she got help from Fred Easton, who was an old-time fiddle player and senior living in our area of small town Saskatchewan that she reached out to for advice and help. He gave her all these resources, and sent her home with all kinds of old-time fiddle records."

She says the demand for fiddle musicians and lessons didn't decrease after the closing of the Emma Lake Fiddle Camp in the early 2000s.

"When Emma Lake Fiddle Camp closed down Michele knew there was a demand for another place because it was something that people missed, and they happened to have this area to test if there was still a demand for it at Kenosee Lake. The first couple of years were small, but it has worked really well, and as much that we do it around our area and for the people interested, it is also here so local artists can come and show their talent.

"We are really committed to making sure we are supporting local Saskatchewan artists and giving them opportunities—job opportunities, and giving them the chance to play with each other for the concerts and feed off each other where they may not have other opportunities to meet up and play with these other artists in any other capacity. They can learn from each other. It is exciting because the public can come and see all combinations of amazing artists that

#### Local artists part of KLKP

Dubois says the committee is committed to showcasing local talent during their camps.

"We definitely make it a priority to hire a certain amount of local artists like local to Saskatchewan as well as bringing out people to intermingle from near or far. In terms of people that are campers themselves, we have seen people that have been coming back for years and years, and I am an example of that. I went almost every year to camp maybe missing one or two years. We have people that grew up going through the camp and if they happen to have time during the week, even if they can't make it for the full week, we will probably see them come at some point for a concert and coming to camp for a day. We get a lot of the same people and a good amount of the same faces every year as well, but people that come back again and again every year that I may not see at all the rest of the year, I see every year in August."

#### What to expect

Dubois explains the Kitchen Fest concerts that are open to the public Monday through Thursday nights.

For the public, the music festivals are outdoor concerts. We also tell people since we have campers there and we usually have 150 people that are on site already so the public does need to bring a lawn chair usually because the seating is limited, expect to have a show of really mixed genre music, it is a little bit more heavily into the fiddle and folk, but there is definitely a lot of other stuff happening. Expect to maybe dance or watch others dance. This year we are trying to incorporate food vendors and artist vendors, not a whole lot, but one food and artist vendor each night as well. You can expect to look through all of the art from art students that are on site. We keep their work up during the week so people can see what they are working on, and just expect a super good time!

The camp prides itself on, we are a super inclusive space, if we can help it no one is ever turned away for any sort of reason, if finance is a barrier, we have financial aid and bursaries we can offer to people. We want people to come and experience it. We don't want to gatekeep this community. That is part of the people coming to these concerts they get to see what happens, we want people to be able to know that this exists. It is crazy to me that people don't know it exists because it has been around for so long. If you are someone who is curious then come to a concert this year and see what it looks like because our registration opens in March and the last two years when registration opened we completely sold out both weeks which is unheard of for a fiddle camp, but I think after covid people have really wanted to get back into things and back into the experiences they missed.

So, we have limited space, we have about just over 100 registrants for the actual camp and we do offer a waitlist. If you're interested too, follow our social media because we post lots, and we post in the weeks leading up to when registration opens so people can be ready, so follow us on Facebook at Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party and Instagram to stay in the loop.

Dubois wants to encourage everyone in the area to come out for an evening of music and fun at the Kitchen Fest through the early weekdays.

'Come out, look online, look at the line-up, see if you recognize any names, and I always recommend that people come out to one of the concerts to see what its like if they have never been and they live in the area."

The camp dedicates their passion for teaching fiddle lessons and keeping fiddle and folk music alive in Saskatchewan to Fred Easton, who was a local fiddle musician in the

'Michele talks about Fred Easton every year at camp, he is one of the reasons she started playing and got more into it because of a local fiddler who wanted to spread it to younger people and that is what we are really trying to do—keeping this pocket of Canadian fiddling alive," said Dubois.



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# IRONWORKERS LOCAL UNION NO. 771 Strength in Membership!

The origins of Labour Day can be traced back to April 15, 1872. No matter where you find yourself this Labour Day, take a minute to think about Canada's labour pioneers. Their actions laid the foundations for future labour movements and helped workers secure the rights and benefits enjoyed today.



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# Looking forward to Labour Day

Nowadays, Labour Day signals the end of summer activities and the beginning of a new school year, and it is a time to relax before our busy fall schedules take precedence.

Yet there is a great deal of meaning behind this special event, which we all celebrate on the first Monday of September. It should also be a time to remember the origins of Labour Day, to remember that, without the efforts and sacrifices of the labour movement to improve working conditions during the 1880s and '90s, this holiday would not exist. That vast mobilization of the labour force, born in big cities such as Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal, grew to encompass the entire Canadian working class and became the holiday that we know today.

Labour Day is more than just another day off. This 1st of September, let's celebrate the success of the workplace and think about ways of improving every aspect of work, so that every day is safer and more fulfilling. Labour Day has been celebrated on the first Monday of September for more than a century. In fact, the first Labour Day parade was held in New York in 1882. Twelve years later, Labour Day became an official holiday in the United States as well as in Canada.

Picnics, fireworks and many other activities organized by unions take place during this long weekend, to remind us of the great battles that were won over the years and the challenges faced by a work environment in perpet- ual transition. It's the perfect occasion to make sure that safety will remain a priority and that new ways will be found to consolidate family and work

While primarily a celebration of the working class, Labour Day is increasingly recognized as the unofficial end of summer. Therefore, take the time during this long week-end to fully enjoy summer's last effort. Make it a weekend to remember by joining in public events in the city or in the country; celebrate with an outdoor barbecue and one last splash in the pool or the lake! During these festivities, also take a minute to fully appreciate the

the good things in life, while building a ones.

fact that having a job enables you to enjoy good future for yourself and your loved

# Labourers' International Union of North America



LIUNA Local 180 would like to thank the hard working people of Saskatchewan this Labour Day. Together we will continue the fight for safer working conditions and better wages

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# Labour Day in Canada

Labour Day, the first Monday in September, has been a statutory holiday in Canada since 1894. It originated in the first workers' rallies of the Victorian era. Historically, workers marked the day with various activities. These included parades, speeches, games, amateur competitions and picnics. The holiday promoted working-class solidarity and belonging during a time of rapid industrialization. Since the Second World War, fewer and fewer people have participated in Labour Day activities. Nevertheless, it remains a statutory holiday. Many Canadians now devote the Labour Day holiday to leisure activity and family time.

Before the 1880s, people held sporadic festivities in connection with larger labour movements. Some historians trace the origin of Labour Day to the Nine Hour Movement (1872).

Labour organizations began to hold celebrations more frequently following a labour convention in New York in September 1882. Spurred on by this initial success, the American Federation of Labor and the Knights of Labor actively promoted workers' celebrations on the first Monday in September in the United States. The Canadian chapters of these organizations did the same. Records show similar gatherings in Toronto (1882); Hamilton and Oshawa (1883); Montreal (1886); St. Catharines (1887); Halifax (1888); Ottawa and Vancouver (1890); and London (1892).

As the event grew more popular nationwide, labour organizations pressured governments to declare the first Monday in September a statutory holiday. Their impact was significant enough that the Royal Commission on the Relations of Labor and Capital in Canada (1886–89) recommended that the federal government establish a "labour day." Before this, the day had official status in only a few municipalities. Montreal, for example, declared it a civic holiday in

In March and April 1894, more than 50 labour organizations from Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Manitoba and British Columbia petitioned parliamentarians. These groups included several regional trade and labour councils, as well as local assemblies of the Knights of Labor. They based their lobbying movement on similar initiatives from American unions. In the House of Commons, a bill sponsored by Prime Minister John Thompson prompted the debate about the holiday's legal status in May 1894. The House passed an amended holiday law without major discussion. It received royal assent on 23 July. The United States federal government also recognized the holiday in

The provinces had no choice but to adapt. For example, Quebec parliamentarians announced that the province's courts would not sit on the first Monday in September of that year. It wasn't until 1899 that the province granted the holiday legal status, ordering school boards to delay the start of classes until after the first Monday in September.

A salute to all the hard-working men and women in the labour force!

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WEEKEND!

Canadians celebrated Labour Day with much ceremony on September 3, 1894. In Montreal, the city's Trades and Labour Congress played a key role in organizing events for the day. A parade set out from the Champ de Mars park at 9 a.m. Its divisions grouped together unions representing the same trade. The Grande-Hermine local assembly of the Knights of Labor led the way. It guided participants to a park where they held speeches, games and a picnic. In Quebec City, the Trades and Labour Congress chose instead to hold a mass followed by entertainment. This included bicycle competitions, foot races and a lacrosse match.





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# Jessica Campbell hosts first Prairie Built fundraiser







**Left:** Jessica Campbell showing off a bomber jacket during the live auction in Rocanville. **Above:** Brad Hickman holding up jerseys during the live auction. Right: Jessica Campbell during the hot stove panel.

™ Continued from Page 3

How connected do you feel to the Prairies? Did growing up on the Prairies make you who you are?

"I think every piece and person you meet, coach, volunteer, anyone who has sacrificed anything. My hockey journey is a big piece of getting me to this position so I don't ever take for granted where I am coming from, the people that have lifted me and that's Saskatchewan through and through, so I am still very much connected and love coming home, this is where all my family still is.

How does it feel coming home now that there's a highway sign coming into Rocanville and your quote is the first thing people see walking into the rink?

"It's crazy, it's emotional for me because it's not something you ever picture for yourself. So to feel the town pride and to feel honoured in that way is more motivation for me to keep going and to keep chasing because I know at the end of the day it's beyond sports, it's beyond hockey, its about growing the game and growing the opportunities for others. For different backgrounds to come to the table and so when I see the sign I know it makes my parents proud and I know they get excited to show it to friends and family coming through. It's another motivation factor and it makes me proud.

How does it feel to be able to make a difference in getting this foundation going.

"When you're afforded the opportunity to have a platform and a reach, which I have now been able to build that momentum, I think it's really important to do something with it because if you don't, what's the point? At the end of the day, I am here to coach hockey and be a part of what I love doing every day, but there's also a greater opportunity to give back and to give other kids that same motivation and whether it's a stick or a signed puck or a picture, it doesn't matter what it is. I always said when I started working with NHL guys, there is no player too big or small and that was always my guiding principle and I just follow that. You never know where that player, kid, pro is going to go and just leave them better then you found them. That is my approach to this whole thing and just bettering community all around."

Continued on page 34 ™



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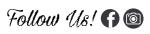
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# Plain & Valley August 2025 · Page 25 Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

# GIFS at USask study shows Prairie farmers producing lowest carbon intensity barley and oats

A new comparative carbon footprint study of barley and oats production shows that Saskatchewan and Western Canadian farmers are producing these crops with the lowest carbon intensity relative to other jurisdictions.

The study, commissioned by the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask), compared barley and oats produced in Saskatchewan, Western Canada, Canada and international competitors—Australia and France for barley, and Australia, Finland, Poland and Sweden for oats.

"The results from our oat and barley report further reinforce the productive sustainability of Western Canada's cropping system," said GIFS Chief Executive Officer Dr. Steven R. Webb (PhD). "These findings are consistent with previous studies on non-durum wheat, durum wheat, canola, lentils, and field peas we announced last year. It's a clear story of innovation—demonstrating that Canada's advanced cropping systems continue to drive sustainable productivity."

Comparable to earlier studies, the lower carbon intensity numbers for barley and oat production in Western Canada are driven by the widespread adoption of various innovations and farming practices employed by producers, including:

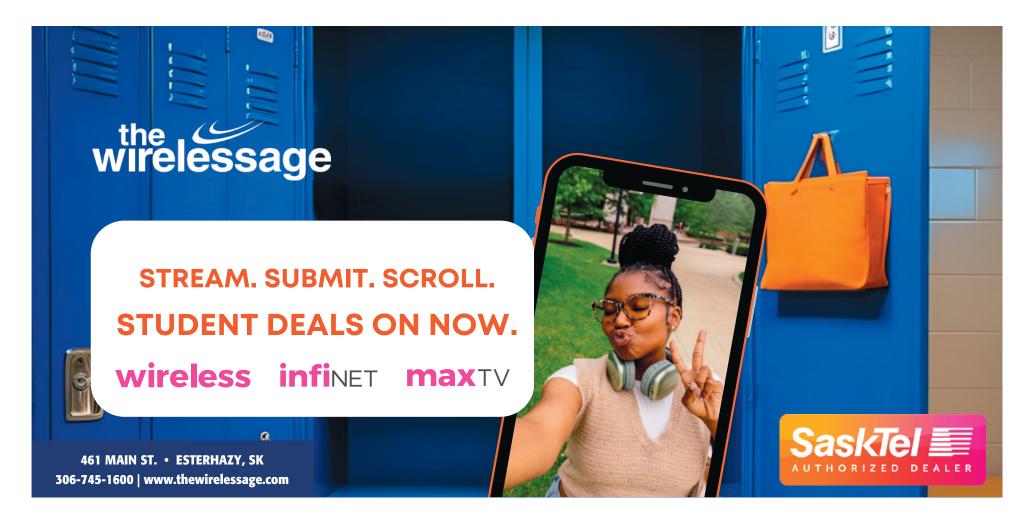
- No-and minimal till farming;
- The adoption of herbicide-tolerant canola;
- A robust crop rotation system;
- The production of nitrogen-fixing pulse crops;
   The growing adoption of innovations on
- The growing adoption of innovations on the rise, such as the variable-rate application of fertilizer.

"We are pleased to see that the latest carbon footprint study from GIFS confirms that Saskatchewan producers are global leaders in sustainable production," said Saskatchewan's Minister of Agriculture Daryl Harrison. "This research from GIFS will help ensure that our producers remain competitive on the world stage.

Continued on Page 27 🖾



Ashley Bochek took this aerial photo of crops near Moosomin.





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# GIFS at USask study shows Prairie farmers producing lowest carbon intensity barley and oats

™ Continued from Page 25

This is evidence that matters to global markets that are looking for products that are sustainably produced. We're grateful to our oat and barley producers for the work they do to meet the needs of markets around the world that rely on Saskatchewan for safe, and high-quality food."

The carbon life cycle analysis of barley and oats followed established protocol supported by global standards, including ISO 14044 and ISO 14067, and leveraged the expertise of GIFS partners at PRISM Consulting who conducted these studies. The study compiled and reviewed data on the carbon dioxide equivalent emissions for the various activities that go into crop production including transportation of field inputs, seed, fertilizer and manure inputs, emissions associated with fertilizer and pesticide manufacturing, energy emissions (from irrigation, field activities, and post-harvest work) and nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide emissions from the application of nitrogen fertilizer, lime and urea.

The study also examined the potential of agricultural landscapes to support soil-based carbon sequestration.

"Agriculture is all about carbon and these studies show that Canadian farmers can produce more good carbon with less waste, while helping us understand the impact of the innovative, practices farmers deploy on the production system," said Webb. "This highlights the importance of approaching these studies from a systems perspective, considering the food produced, the emissions or waste generated, and the ability of the system to sequester carbon in the soil."

The results show that whether including or excluding soil carbon sequestration, the carbon footprint to produce barley and oats is lowest in Saskatchewan and Western Canada, with the difference being more distinct when soil carbon is included.

"As the world's population continues to increase, so does the need to create sustainable methods to feed this growing population," said USask Vice-President of Research Dr. Baljit Singh (PhD). "The results of this study emphasize the true impact that the University of Saskatchewan and the Global Institute for Food Security have on Canada's agricultural landscape. We have been



A new comparative carbon footprint study of barley and oats production from GIFS at USask shows that Western Canadian farmers have lowest carbon intensity.

leaders when it comes to researching and exploring innovative and sustainable farming practices and we are committed to continuing this excellent work for many years

The study demonstrates the ability to drive productive sustainability through the large-scale deployment of innovations by producers.

"We undertook these life cycle analyses to understand how crop production compares across regions, the im-

pact of innovation on production, and to support the development of a regulatory framework that is evidencebased, follows the data and considers the whole system through a productivity lens that measures grain yields, emissions and sequestration," said Webb. "There is always room for improvement across all production systems, and GIFS emphasizes that one size does not fit all, so the regenerative practices should be scaled to regions and account for regional differences."



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# Show & shine held at Oak Lake Village golf course

On June 14 at the Oak Lake Village Golf Course, there were more vintage vehicles then golfers. The event was a show and shine event and golf tournament in support of Dirty Words Customz auto centre in Oak Lake.

The centre has reopened, making some changes in its

specialized vehicle work and creations.

That day there were over 60 vehicles that included new, vintage antique cars, trucks and motorcycles. The afternoon event attracted all ages, and on site as well were food vendors, T-shirt sales, cotton candy and a small bouncy castle for the children, plus two wandering dino-

All during the event, people were checking out the mechanics and histories of the different and colorful ma-

Later in the afternoon there was a rock and roll band

set up by the clubhouse blasting away. The band is called The Brand New Renaissance with members from Brandon and Oak Lake. However they were not the only music on site that afternoon. There was a WWII vintage army jeep that was a tribute to the WWII Canadian Army Show whose biggest performers were the late and great Wayne and Shuster. The jeep had a vintage WWII sound system, that played the 78 RPM records from the war years by such artist as Glen Miller, Vera Lynn and others.

Dwayne Wiltshire, who along with his wife Cindy own Dirty Words Customz said, "I was pleased with the turnout not only of the public but of the many vehicles that were on display that included local machines. The variety of vehicles offered something for everyone and the weather was perfect for the outdoor event. Accompanied with the music, food trucks, vehicles and bounce castle it was an enjoyable event for all ages.



Children playing in the bounce castle at the Oak Lake Show and Shine.



Left to right: A 1960 British Triumph Sports car and a beautifully restored 1938 Ford half ton truck.



This is a 1966 Chrysler high end convertible which was over five and a half meters long!



This is a late '40s panel delivery van. Some were used for funeral home pick-up vehicles.



This shows how big and long the windows were on a '60s era hard top convertible.



One of the bands that played at the Oak Lake Village Golf course called Brand New Renais-





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# New crop outlook has improved since the start of the year

FCC SENIOR ECONOMIST

Over the past six months, grain and oilseed producers have experienced a period marked by significant news about global supply chains and U.S. trade relation-ships but generally stronger-than-expected prices. Weather conditions have, as usual, been unpredictable across the country: while some producers have faced yet another year of drought, many others are anticipating favourable crop yields. Since last January's outlook, crop margins have improved, though for most producers they remain close to breakeven levels.

For western producers growing canola, strong Canadian exports and positive news from U.S. government biofuel incentives have improved expectations for current and future demand, supporting prices. As the 2024/25 crop year concludes, market dynamics beyond tariffs and geopolitical factors have emerged as more significant influences on pricing of other crops. Overall, cash prices have strengthened since January; although they remain well below the peaks observed to lead to ending stocks

tinue to exceed long-term historical ranges

In its July 2025 WASDE report, the USDA lowered its forecast for both 2025/26 global production and ending stocks of wheat, partially based on lower crop expectations for Canada. Global ending stocks for wheat excluding China, continue to be tight and are at a nearly 20-year low. However, U.S. stocks remain well supplied which is keeping a lid on U.S. futures prices.

Global soybean markets remain well supplied, but a big shift is occurring within the U.S. due to government policies on biofuels as well trade policy with China, the world's largest importer of soybeans. The biofuel policy is driving higher soybean crush in the U.S. as they need to produce more soybean oil, with the expectation that 2025/26 industrial use exceeds food consumption for the first time ever.

Corn production is forecast to jump this year thanks in part to a large crop in Brazil, but higher consumption is expected roughly unchanged year over year.

**Plain and Valley** 

Current Prairie weather conditions resemble those recorded in early July of the previous year, though there are notable differences in this year's July weather. The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is used to assess vegetation density via satellite imag-ery in the Prairies, with higher values indicating increased vegetation density or stronger growth trends. The curve's shape provides additional insight; after crop emergence, an appro-priate combination of heat and rainfall is required for optimal flowering duration, which is associated with higher yields. Last year at this point, NDVI data suggested high crop potential, but reduced summer rainfall limited overall yields.

Currently, average NDVI readings in the three prairie provinces are at average levels, suggesting yield potential that may fall within or slightly above the usual range. Satellite data provide estimates for specific moments in time. Rainfall in July has been greater than the previous year, and continued precipitation could improve crop outcomes compared to last vear. These readings represent aggregate data, but some regions within the Prairies continue to experience drought conditions, which is affecting both hay and grain crops. Feed quality and availability in these areas may present challenges during the upcoming winter.

Ontario and Ouebec have encountered distinct challenges to date, primarily due to excessive moisture during planting that resulted in significant delays. This is evident when reviewing their NDVI trends compared to historical data as early season readings were considerably lower than normal. However, subsequent periods of heat and rainfall across most regions have supported corn and soybeans in progressing toward typical development stages. With the winter wheat crop displaying favourable conditions at harvest, weather over the next month will be critical in guiding the late-planted crops through pollination. Nevertheless, average to above-average yields remain attainable.

for the 2025/26 crop rotations—including canola/ wheat in the west and corn/soybeans in the east has improved compared to FCC's January forecast. This improvement is primarily attributed to slightly stronger pricing, as cost structures have remained relatively stable and yield projections are average across the major provinces. While anticipated margins are higher than those recorded last year, they continue to fall below the fiveyear average. For many producers, especially when considering land costs, projected returns are expected to be at or near breakeven. It should be noted that actual results may improve should yields-or marketing opportunities—exceed our model's baseline assumptions.

The current crop year shows a more positive outlook than last year. Despite various challenges, such as differing weather conditions across regions, overall prospects have improved. Cash prices have increased since January, influenced by global supply projections and market factors, which

vourably for grain and oilseed producers. The Prairie regions have experienced better rainfall and cooler temperatures, leading to higher vegetation density readings and the potential for average or above-average yields. In Ontario and Ouebec, after initial planting delays, the possibility of strong yields remains if favourable weather persists.

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# FCC leads Al farming innovation with new partnership with RDAR

Farmers and food producers will soon have access to faster, smarter support thanks to Root—a free generative AI tool built by Farm Credit Canada (FCC). Root is designed to close critical information gaps and give producers fast, reliable support anytime, anywhere, helping them work more productively and make better decisions on the farm. FCC is expanding the tool's capabilities through a new partnership with Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR), strengthening its capacity to serve Canada's ag and food industry.

Root fills the growing gap in Canada's extension services by delivering accessible, expertbacked guidance to producers without requiring complex data inputs. It translates decades of research, field experience and proven practices into practical, timely advice producers can use immediately. By simplifying decision-making and increasing confidence on the farm, Root helps accelerate productivity, reduce trial-anderror and empower Canadian producers to adopt better practices with less risk, right from

Now, through a new memorandum of understanding, RDAR will work with FCC to strengthen the tool's capabilities. The partnership will connect Root to relevant data sources and support testing efforts to ensure it continues to meet the evolving needs of Canadian pro-

"Root is more than a technology solution, it's part of a broader effort to bring back something Canadian agriculture has lost: accessible, trusted and timely insight," says Justine Hendricks, FCC president and CEO. "With the decline of local advisory networks [extension services], too many farmers and ranchers have had to rely on fragmented information or go at it alone. By partnering with RDAR, we're helping producers access the kind of expertise that once came from decades of community-based knowledge sharing and we're doing it in real time, at the pace of modern farming with trusted advisors."

RDAR invests in results-driven, producer-led research to improve productivity in Canada's agriculture sector. With over 500 projects in its portfolio, the organization brings deep knowledge of the issues producers face and a shared commitment to innovation.

"We are especially keen on incorporating RDAR materials into Root, FCC's AI / Large Language Model Pilot and making our materials accessible to producers and ranchers,' said Dr. Mark Redmond, CEO of RDAR. "We are pleased to formalize our partnership with FCC; in the past, we have worked on initiatives concurrently, but now we will collaborate more closely. This alliance aims to foster innovative solutions for the agricultural sector," he added.

Root is built on a privacy-first principle, ensuring no personal user information is required to use the assistance. This protects producer confidentiality and builds trust as they explore the tool. Since its launch, Root has supported more than 2,900 conversations, with 91% of users reporting helpful results. It has analyzed nearly 400 images submitted by producers, helping identify parts and troubleshoot equipment issues. Producers are already using Root to get real-time support on farm management, all through a simple, mobile-friendly interface.

Launched earlier this year, Root is available in English and French and includes voice-to-text and image recognition, making it easy to use from anywhere, even in the field.

As demand grows for smarter, more accessible ag support tools, future versions of Root could offer additional functions to support producers, as well as agrifood and agribusiness operators, in making decisions about operations. The long-term goal is to give FCC customers and the Canadian ag and food industry personalized insights at their fingertips. There's no sign-up or registration required. Farmers and producers can start using Root right away. To use the tool, visit: Root, your virtual farm assistant.





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# Crop insurance extends for AgriStability producers

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

In a year plagued with drought conditions and trade instability, both federal and provincial levels of government announced a boost to the AgriStability program last week.

"It's nice to be able to announce those today," said provincial Agriculture Minister, Daryl Harrison on July 21. "I think producers are looking forward to it, producer groups are looking forward to it. It's nice to see it come to fruition."

AgriStability helps farming operations that face a large margin decline caused by production loss, increased costs, or market conditions. Personalized for every producer who enrols, coverage uses historical information based on income tax and supplementary information. Delivered through the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation, it's one of the business risk management programs in the federal Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership. For this year only, participants in the AgriStability program will see an increase in the compensation rate from 80 to 90 per cent and the maximum cap is doubling to \$6 million per operation.

Some parts of Saskatchewan are experiencing the "worst drought in a decade," with 44 per cent of the province listed as under drought conditions and 38 per cent classified as abnormally dry. The severity in some places is reminiscent of the Dirty Thirties—leading to the RMs of Enterprise, Maple Creek, Fox Valley, Waverley, Big Stick, and Wood River declaring a local state of emergency.

cal state of emergency.

"Now is the time for unity, and we are working together to deliver for producers right across the country to make sure our programs work for them," Heath MacDonald, federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food said. "That is why, at our meeting last week, we agreed to make changes to AgriStability so that producers facing trade uncertainty and dry condi-



Federal Agriculture Minister Heath MacDonald

tions have more protection."

As for future changes, AgriStability will see adjustments to the feed inventory pricing for livestock, starting in 2026. Some allowable expenses are also under consideration for the 2026 program year.

"The Saskatchewan Cattle Association has long advocated for changes to the eligible feed expenses and changes to the feed inventory pricing for AgriStability," SCA Chair Chad Ross said. "We applaud the changes announced today, including moving forward with the permanent change to the feed inventory pricing for the 2026 program year. This should make the program more responsive for livestock producers. We will continue to advocate for the allowable feed expenses to become permanent as well."



Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister Daryl Harrison.

From the years 2018 to 2023, the AgriStability program paid out more than \$645 million in benefits, and payments are trending higher for the 2024 program year. The deadline for producers to enrol in the 2025 AgriStability is fast approaching, even though it has been extended to July 31 (from April 30).

#### Chinese tariffs continue to worry canola producers

During the virtual meeting between MacDonald and provincial and territorial ag ministers, the Chinese canola tariff was another hot topic. Put in place back in March, China imposed a 100 per cent tariff on Canadian canola oil and meal, which was in response to Canada's tariff on Chinese electric vehicles, steel, and alu-

minum.

"Our trade is a moving target," Harrison told the World-Spectator. "My biggest question from producers is China, and the canola oil and canola meal specifically—peas as well. They're worried about the trade with China, because China's tariffs are counter tariffs in response to our federal government's 100 per cent EV tariffs."

Harrison says there appears to be no movement with regards to the Chinese canola tariff

"I brought it up at the FPT call, but also directly to Minister McDonald," Harrison explained. "He said there are talks going on, that they are engaged. I said, 'that's the first question that's most often asked,' and the fact there's been little or no mention to it in any of the federal government's dialogue, nor in any media. Not knowing anything is probably worse than getting bad news, but most certainly, everybody's kind of waiting on pins and needles just to see. It's a huge cash crop for our producers, and then our canola crushers are also right in the middle of this."

Harrison also continues to be boggled as to the reasoning behind the retaliatory tariffs from China, citing the Chinese EV market in Canada doesn't seem to be all too large.

"We've been pushing the federal government since the counter tariffs came in, and actually even prior to it, because we knew when they initiated the tariffs on EV vehicles, that there could be repercussions, and there eventually was," he said. "We still continue to pressure the federal government—the new prime minister and new federal ag minister—they need to engage with China on a nation to nation level and get this resolved.

"I'm not sure that there's even an electric vehicle market here in Canada to try to protect, so it's really unclear as to what the intention was of our federal government to impose this in the first place," Harrison

concluded.

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- 2. Tenders must be received at or before noon on September 5, 2025.
- 3. Each tender must be accompanied by a \$1,000.00 deposit cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unacceptable bids will be refunded.
- 4. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE:

- 1. The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
- 2. Sale shall be subject to the approval of the Prairie to Pine Region for United Churches in Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario.
- 3. In addition to the deposit, the balance of the accepted tender must be paid within thirty (30) days from the date of notification of tender acceptance, or evidence provided that the purchase funds will be available under conditions acceptable to the Vendor. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
- Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender.
- 5. All mines and minerals will be reserved from any transfer.
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- Each of the vendor and purchaser will be responsible for their own legal fees and disbursements relating to the sale.
- 8. Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2025.

For further information or appointment to view contact Karen Barrows at 204-725-6712 or Joanne Eastman at 204-741-0701.

Meighen Haddad LLP

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Sealed, written tenders for the property described below will be received by: **Meighen Haddad LLP** 

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- 2. Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 p.m. on **October 3rd, 2025** in an envelope marked "TENDER".
- Each tender must be accompanied by a \$5,000.00 deposit cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unaccepted bids will be refunded.
- 4. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
- 5. Any Tender that has no specific amount will be rejected. The Tender cannot be an offer to pay an amount in addition to the highest tender.

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

- 1. The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
- 2. The closing date of the sale shall be **November 5th**, 2025 on which date the Vendors shall provide a registerable Transfer of title to the Purchaser and the Purchaser shall pay the balance of the accepted tender. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit or acceptable arrangements for payment have not been made, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
- 3. All mines and minerals will be reserved from any Transfer.
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# Wet start to the season and wildfire smoke affecting bees

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

With the peak of summer fast approaching, beekeepers are in the busiest part of their year. But the spring and summer of 2025 have been a real mixed bag with a cooler, wetter season plagued by intermittent wildfire smoke.

"The smoke definitely has a detrimental affect on the bees," said Lance Strong of B. Strong Apiaries located just outside of Rocanville. "Honeybees require a certain light intensity in order to leave the hive to forage. On the days when smoke is thick, it definitely shrinks the foraging win-

According to numbers from 2023, Saskatchewan produced 22 per cent of the 91.8 million pounds of honey (20 million lbs.) produced in Canada, exporting around \$4 million (down \$6.6 million from the year previous).

It not just the bees being affected by the smoky conditions, blocking out the sun's rays can affect the plants as

"The reduced light also affects the photosynthesis of plants, making it less efficient and therefore producing less nectar and pollen," Strong said. "This results in weaker

colonies and smaller honey crop yields."
As with many producers across Saskatchewan, B. Strong Apiaries raises their own bees—a practice that means multiple mating flights need to happen for each virgin queen.

'The queen has a window of opportunity for her mating flights, and when that window closes, she doesn't mate again for her entire life span," Strong explained. "If that mating window happens to overlap with a smoky week or two, the result is a sub-par batch of queens at best. There is anecdotal evidence from various producers that their mating success rates have lessened in these smoky years."

Across the border in Manitoba, bee producers are seeing some of the same consequences as smoky summers become more intense.

"These last five years, we've been seeing more and more smoke through the summer, almost becoming a normal thing now," said Ian Steppler, Chair of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association and a producer near Miami, Manitoba. "In regards to bees, we are quite concerned about it."

Every year, Manitoba beekeepers produce around 20 million pounds of honey with an approximate value of \$50 million into the provincial economy, courtesy the efforts of 250 producers and billions of bees. In total, the Prairie provinces accounted for 73 per cent of all honey exports

#### Smoke may also have benefits

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While the negative effects of wildfire smoke are quite obvious, there may be somewhat of a silver lining to be found.

"Every year is different," Strong said, when asked about this season compared to 2024. "I can say that for our area at least, it's been a great start to the year for bees.'

One huge benefit to all the rain received this spring is the resulting proliferation of other plants, growing at a time when usually things would not be as abundant.

"Typically, we have a dearth period after dandelions and

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Lance Strong pulls a frame from a recently gathered box to show what his team collects and processes.

caraganas until clover and canola, however this year we had a lot of wildflower along with early clover and alfalfa that kept the bees going without having to slow down," Strong said. "This has provided us with strong colonies going into the canola bloom - good for us and for the canola

Some studies suggest that adding three honey bee hives

per hectare of canola increased yield by 46 per cent compared to fields without hives.

In addition to more foliage around, Steppler also suggests that nasty smoke may actually have given some cover for our buzzing friends.

Continued on page 33 137







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# Wet start to the season and wildfire smoke affecting bees

"It might actually help the bees because it's provided that little bit of a shield from the scorching, hot sun; protecting the crop a little bit, which allowed the crop to not get burnt off," he said, adding that the cover might have even made for a longer blooming period. "I'm hearing that more and more, actually, where it might be just a little bit of protection from the scorching sun. It depends on who you talk to, some beekeepers are very concerned about the environment and the smoke - and that I understand, they're more on the side of this smoke is bad for the bees - but the commercial guys talking to me are just a little bit indifferent. Maybe it actually helps us, but with the caveat that we're not in the heart of it."

Beekeepers located closer to the thick of the heavy, orange smoke are the ones in trouble, as Steppler said.

"The bees stay in the colonies, and they kind of sit and lose weight," he explained. "They don't fly and they don't forage, so they think it affects the queen mating and such."

As a result, some producers have had to relocate their bee yards in order to protect the hives.

Steppler described the growing season as 'very interesting', adding that the spring had begun tough with colonies experiencing a dwindle initially, due to the cool conditions.

"But then this spring turned around, and we had very favourable conditions come through," he said. "The colonies turned around and they started to grow; they exploded and growth right through until now, they haven't stopped growing. I don't think I've seen

the colonies in such great shape."

Dandelions and berry trees began to bloom at the right time in Manitoba with flora becoming quite lush.

"Every flower plant has an extra flower, and the grass - we're still mowing our bee yards because the grass just won't quit growing," Steppler said. "You look at the crops around here, and they're just spectacular. We got timely rains come through in central Manitoba. I know there's some dry places in Manitoba, maybe the growth isn't as dramatic, but I'm hearing from beekeepers this is a clover year, one of those years where you have the clover grow just tremendously and produce a lot of nectar. Beekeepers across Manitoba are like, 'all right, the clover years, we just love these years!' nectar is flowing into the colonies, and if you were to count the rings in a tree, this would be one of those growth years."

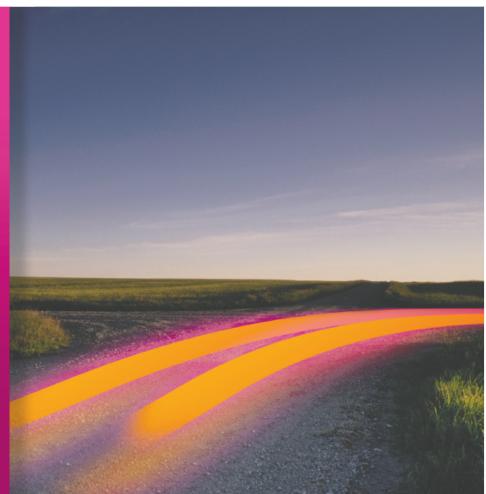




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# Jessica Campbell hosts first Prairie Built fundraiser

™ Continued from page 23

When you were growing up did you ever think you would make it this far in hockey.

'I believed in crazy things, I was very much a dreamer of working at the highest level and maybe not seeing myself behind the bench in the NHL, but I thought I could play in the NHL when I was playing boys hockey, and when Team Canada became real for me that's when the dream shifted and then when I finished playing and started coaching it was very interesting because there were a few moments a long the way that were the 'Aha's' and when I started my business there was obviously no other woman behind a bench doing what I was doing and so I think the voice inside me was there telling me I could do it. I believed I had the passion and the skill set to do it, but obviously there's a lot of outside noise and critics that maybe didn't see it the same way I did and the voice was a lot quieter, but it was real in me and when the NHL players started to show up and walk through the door of the house that I built for myself. That was very formative for my confidence and I think the step that I needed to know that I could do it, I was doing it on my own and why couldn't I do it on a team level and I just continued to follow the path and every opportunity that came my way was another step.

#### Who locally contributed to your development as a hockey player. Is there anyone in our area when you look back you realize made a real difference.

"There's so many volunteers and coaches. I grew up in Rocanville Minor Hockey and Melville Minor Hockey. Leo Park who was my first competitive boys coach on a AA team. He taught me so many lessons, some of which I shared last night and how to be a competitor. He treated me equally just like one of the boys and that's how it should have been right from the start, and he planted seeds early in me to demand and set a standard of excellence and discipline and be truly competitive, so that tough coaching style was good for me and my development and I cherish that mentorship he gave me and he is still a huge mentor for me, even now and is a great family friend. So, we cherish those coaches.

What message are you trying to get across to young peo-

ple and young girls especially in hockey?

"At the end of the day there is a place for everyone in hockey, we've been a part of the game for as long as we've been tying them up and now it's just growing more opportunities for girls in sports. Obviously, the visibility is there now behind the bench which I didn't know I could do because I couldn't see it and so visibility matters for girls and when you have it, you can see it, you dream it and you can believe in it and that's really important, but I also now that I am a part of a long list and late on a long list of remarkable women already in the game, in the NHL, in management and scouting, and player development, analytics you name it, media that are doing a heck of a job and I give so much credit to them because I always say breaking barriers is through mutual trust and building trust and respect and when you have that, that's what breaks the barriers and at the end of the day for young girls hearing this message it's believe in anything you see for yourself and even if you don't see it in the world around you, still have permission to believe in it and chase after it.

#### When you look back on your career to this point what

do you look back on with the most pride?

'I take most pride in all of the things I have done in the community or gotten to part of in a community whether it was Sheldon Kennedy and the Child Abuse advocacy, mental health initiatives with DIFD foundation. Those were the most memorable moments because my teammates showed up, my coaches showed up and brought together, what really hockey is about. It's a team sport, it's about pulling on the same rope for the same goal and so anytime I'm able to do things in the community and come to things like this and Pro Hockey Life obviously and see the kids that are all falling in love with the game at their own pace and the parents that are there sacrificing. That's the beauty of sport and hockey and coming out of the Prai-

ries it's even more special.

Looking forward where do you see your own career go-

ing and where do you see women's hockey going?
"Women's hockey is on a great pace that its always been pushing towards and now the sustainability infrastructure is there to make it a league they've always deserved, the product has always been there. I think the opportunity and visibility and now having an option to play professionally and make a career of it is going to just explode the growth of the game. I already see how many kids are buying PWHL jerseys and falling in love with their new favourite player because they can see that player on TV. Those things matter, that's what inspires kids to come in here and buy skates and beg their parents to walk away with a stick. It's huge, I'm so excited for the momentum, and they're on their way. As for my journey I'm very happy where I am at. I work for an incredible organization and I want to win the Stanley Cup. I just want to win, be a great coach and who knows what's next. I mean if Head Coaching is in the cards for me someday, then I would love to continue to work to be a better coach and see where it takes me.'

#### You're part of this grand opening ad Pro Hockey Life today, what does it mean for hockey players to have a store like this in Saskatchewan.

"It's amazing, I was just saying sometimes when you come out of smaller towns you lack resources that are maybe there for the city centres and to have this now in a one stop shop spot in Regina where everybody can access it.

You don't have to try to go everywhere to figure it out and to me that can be a barrier and so I experienced that myself, not having something like this, but to be able to not just access resources, but the best of the best products that's what also helps further development and it's not about that, but it's important to have the opportunity. I'm excited for the kids in the city and surrounding areas and the families."

#### During your visit back home are you able to make some time to visit family?

"The next few days I'm going home to hang out with my nephews and chase them around with hopefully water

#### When you come home is there a sense of being just Jessica again?

Yes, it's so refreshing. I ran into Jess Moskaluke last night. When you're under the microscope and you're doing something that's public facing you feel the pressure of always being on and when you come home to the Prairies you can go to the grocery store and say hello to a few people and take pictures, but it's different because we're all just the same at the end of the day. I've been afforded a very incredible opportunity where now I have to do something special hopefully for others to benefit from and I think when I come back it always grounds me. Family, people that have been supporting me always fuel me and refill my cup, it's awesome."



**Above:** Jessica Campbell after signing an autograph for Mia Betham from Fort Qu'Appelle at the opening of the Pro Hockey Life store in Regina.

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Hayden and Cameron waving at the Shriners mini car patrol during the Pipestone Home coming parade. Mrs. King is a former resident of Pipestone.



The Memorial Park grand opening and ribbon cutting.



One of the floats in the parade.



Memorabilia on display during the homecoming.

# Pipestone homecoming held July 11-

BY ED JAMES

After two years of planning, the Pipestone community held a successful homecoming from July 11-13, 2025. "It was an amazing success," said Kim MacKenzie, one

of the event organizers. "We had former residents return from all across Canada and many places outside of Canada. The weather was perfect and the work of the many volunteers and businesses paid off, making it a weekend event for family and friends.

Over the three day event, there was lots to see and do for all ages including a farmers market, a school reunion, a cemetery walk, a memorabilia display, a dance and concert, a scavenger hunt, lots of baseball games and children's activities. The parade held on Sunday was over an hour long with a variety of floats from community groups and businesses. Added to it were some great vintage tractors, trucks and cars. All along, the parade was lined with campers, cars and trucks and lawn chairs sitting in shaded areas. Almost every child was well prepared with shopping bags to gather up the free treats.

During the weekend the community hall was the centre

for most of the events, however at the local seniors drop in



The Memorial Park grand opening.

center there was a well organized display of community memorabilia that covered the school history, service and sports clubs, the Royal Canadian Legion, former commu-

nity shops and businesses, wedding photos from over the years and a unique a display of vintage post cards. On Sunday afternoon there was a special service to open the new Pipestone Memorial Park area that recognized all those from the area who served in Canada's military.

The event was MC'ed by Kim Mackenzie, who gave a history of the park project, introduced the project dignitaries and oversaw the official ribbon cutting to open the park. This was followed by a thanksgiving service given by lay minister Joyce Marsh, followed by the playing of the Last Post and Revielle by Michelle Gervin. The piper and drummer played a moving lament to end this part of the service. There was then another service to mark the 45th anniversary of the Pipestone Lions Club and their service to the community over the years. Memory photos were also taken of each group.

By Sunday evening, trailers and campers were being packed up for their trips home. Many of the people who came home for the event from far away left with many warm memories of the Pipestone homecoming and the community.



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- SEPTEMBER 2025 -				
3	Wednesday	Regular Sale 9 a.m.		
10	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale		
17	Wednesday	Regular Sale 9 a.m.		
19	Friday	Cows / Bulls		
21	Sunday	Sheep / Goats 1 p.m.		
		Small Animals & Tack		
2.4		Horse Sale		
24	Wednesday	29th Anniversary Presort Feeder Sale		
26	Friday 	Cows / Bulls		
		- OCTOBER 2025 -		
1	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale		
3	Friday	Cows / Bulls		
J	Tiday	McIntyre Family Horse Dispersal		
8	Wednesday	Simmental Bonanza Presort Feeder Sale		
10	Friday	Cows / Bulls		
15	Wednesday	Charolais Extravaganza Presort Feeder Sale 10 a.m.		
17	Friday	Cows / Bulls		
19	Sunday	Sheep / Goat		
	•	Small Animals & Tack		
		Horse Sale 7 p.m.		
22	Wednesday	Angus Showcase Sale Presort Feeder Sale		
25	Saturday	North American Auctioneer Contest Presort Feeder Sale 10 a.m.		
29	Wednesday	Angus Showcase Sale #2 Presort Feeder Sale 10 a.m.		
31	Friday	Cows / Bulls		
		- NOVEMBER 2025 -		
5	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale Hereford, Shorthorn, Speckle Park Gather 10 a.m.		
J	Wearlesday	Bred Cow Receiving 2 p.m 10 p.m.		
7	Friday	Cows / Bulls & Feeders		
•		Bred Cow & Heifer Sale 1 p.m.		
9	Sunday	Sheep / Goat 1 p.m.		
	,	Small Animals & Tack		
		Horse Sale 7 p.m.		
12	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale		
14	Friday	Cows / Bulls & Feeders		
19	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale		
		Bred Cow Receiving		
21	Friday	Cows / Bulls & Feeders		
		Bred Cow & Heifer Sale 1 p.m.		
26	Wednesday	Regular Sale 9 a.m.		
- DECEMBER 2025 -				
3	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale		
5	Friday	Bred Cow & Heifer Sale 1 p.m.		
10	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale		
12	Friday	Bred Cow & Heifer Sale 1 p.m.		
16	Tuesday	Bred Cow & Heifer Sale 1 p.m.		
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Friday

Monday

19

22

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# Better heating method makes legumes easier to digest

USask researchers find radio frequency heating breaks down antinutrient in peas and beans and is more energy efficient

By Ella Funk

While they have been part of our human diet for centuries, legumes like peas and beans are ultimately seeds for the next generation of plants. To protect themselves from being eaten by animals and insects, they contain "antinutrients" that are hard for animals – and humans – to digest.

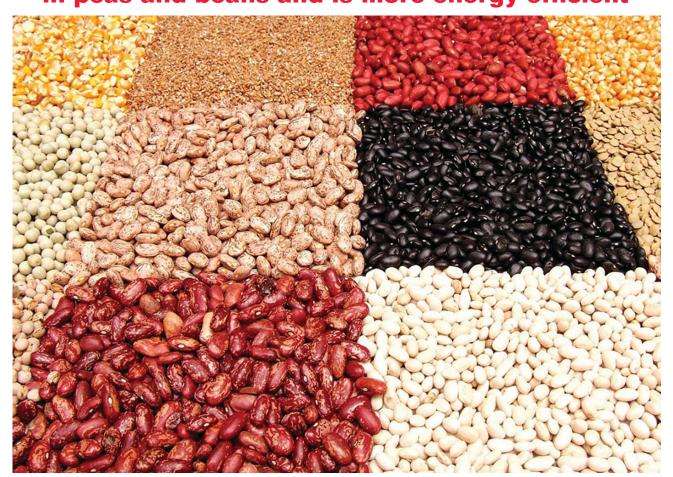
antinutritional These compounds - which include tannins, lectins, trypsin inhibitors, and phytic acid – are broken down when beans and peas are heated. However, the large ovens that food processing companies currently use to heat beans and peas are inefficient. They can burn the outside before the inside has reached a temperature hot enough to deactivate the antinutrients.

Researchers from the University of Saskatchewan (USask) Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering have identified a new heating method – using radio frequency (RF) waves—that appears to be both more effective and efficient than the approach currently used in the industry.

the industry.

Tolen Moirangthem, a PhD student from the group, compares RF waves to microwaves. "When you put a cup of water in the microwave, the water heats up, but the cup doesn't. The same is true for the pea—the water inside heats up, but the rest of the pea doesn't."

Scientists call this process "selective heating," because it can heat some



create larger pores in the samples, as well as more pores in total, as the steam looked for ways to escape.

Using the Canadian Light Source at the USask, the research group confirmed that the beans treated with RF heat did in fact have more pores, and the heating method reduced the amount of an antinutrient (proteins called trypsin inhibitors)—by 81 per cent.

"We know that we have big potential with this project," says Moirangthem "Animal protein is very expensive in different parts of the world, so we need sustainable plant protein that can be produced at mass volume to feed the world population."

This new heating method could help make bean and pea crops even more environmentally friendly to process, with the bonus of making legumes easier to digest.

areas within a material but not others. It seems to help maintain the desirable nutritional properties in pea or bean, which can break down with regular heating methods. And unlike the long heating times of traditional processes, the RF heating method only takes a few minutes.

The team hypothesized that during RF heat treatment, the water inside a legume expands and turns into steam, which would cause the pores inside to explode from the pressure. In turn, this would



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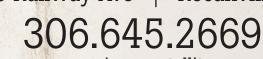
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# Crops developing rapidly

Crops have rapidly developed due to warm temperatures and dry conditions in many areas across the province over the past week. Early seeded crops are nearing maturity in many areas, and rain would likely not benefit these crops at this stage. Producers are still hoping for rain to help with grain fill in later-seeded crops.

Isolated thunderstorms brought significant rainfall to some areas last week, while many areas had negligible precipitation. The Old Wives area received the most rainfall in the province with 132 millimetres (mm), followed closely by the Vanguard area with 119 mm and the Cadillac area with 95 mm. The Dollard and Neidpath areas also received significant rainfall with 74 mm and 72 mm, respectively.

Despite significant rainfall in a few ar-

eas of the province, dry conditions were widespread this week which caused overall topsoil moisture levels to fall from last week. Provincial topsoil moisture levels for cropland areas are five per cent surplus, 54 per cent adequate, 33 per cent short and eight per cent very short. Hayland topsoil moisture is four per cent surplus, 48 per cent adequate, 37 per cent short and 11 per cent very short. Pasture topsoil moisture is four per cent surplus, 52 per cent adequate, 32 per cent short and 12 per cent very short.

Crop development varies across the province. Rapid crop development due to limited moisture has resulted in a higher percentage of crops being ahead of normal stages than two weeks ago. Crops in areas that have received sufficient rain so far this year are generally at normal stages while moisture-stressed crops are

The dry conditions for much of the season in certain areas have led to some producers starting to harvest early seeded crops. Provincially, harvest is one per cent complete with most of this progress occurring in the southwest. Winter cereal crops are furthest ahead, with 13 per cent

typically ahead of normal growth stages.

cent complete with most of this progress occurring in the southwest. Winter cereal crops are furthest ahead, with 13 per cent of winter wheat and seven per cent of fall rye harvested. Harvest has also started for pulse crops, and one per cent of lentils and peas have been combined so far. Although most producers in the province have not started harvesting, it is their primary focus as they are currently servicing equipment, hauling grain and cleaning bins to prepare.

Many pastures are in good to fair condition this year, but a notable portion are in poor condition due to limited precipitation in certain areas. Currently, six per

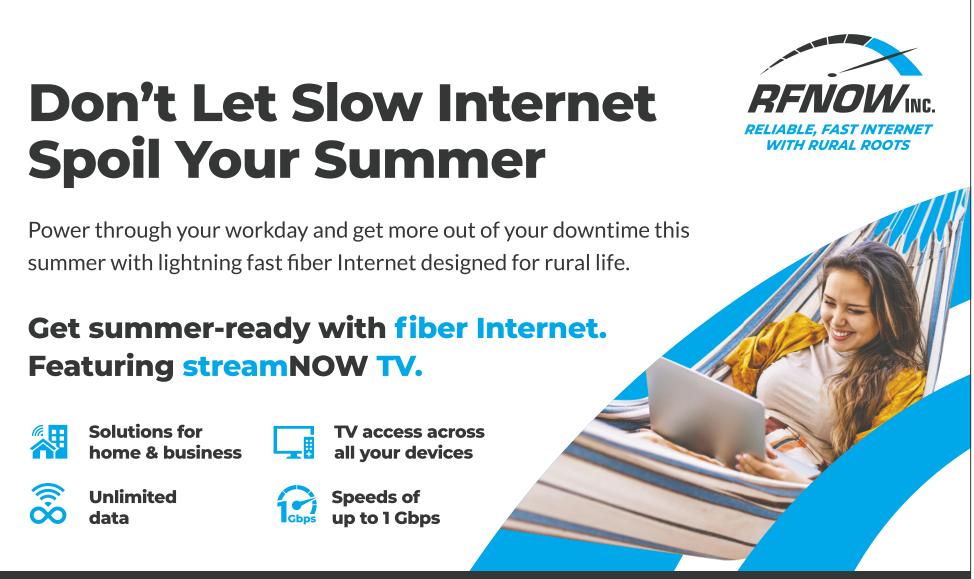
cent of pastures are in excellent condition, 36 per cent are good, 32 per cent are fair, 19 per cent are poor and eight per cent are in very poor condition.

Last week, minor crop damage was reported in areas experiencing hot temperatures paired with dry conditions. There were also reports of grasshoppers, wind and wildlife causing minor crop damage in certain areas.

As producers are preparing for and beginning harvest, there will be increased farm equipment traffic on public roadways. Drivers are reminded to exercise patience and caution when encountering large equipment on the road. Additionally, farm equipment operating in dry fields can present a fire risk. Producers are encouraged to take safety precautions to mitigate fire risk and ensure harvest efforts are conducted safely.









A group photo of the many members of the extended Dennis Family whose ancestors settled on the farm 125 years ago located southeast of Wawota



Family members on the Dennis farm house front porch looking at the silent auction items and a display of the Dennis Family Farm history and photos from the last 125 years.



Shirley Dennis and Adam Dennis, representing the oldest and youngest members of the Dennis family, planting a maple tree to commemorate the 125the anniversary of the Dennis Family Farm.



From left, son Boyd, mother Barbara and son Brad Dennis at the Dennis Family Farm during the farm's 125th anniversary.



A family dance was held at the Dennis Farm with music by Joni and Roseanne of "Cut A Rug" music.

# Sunnybrae farm celebrates 125 years

BY ED JAMES

From July 18-20, NW 12-9-34-W1 in southeast Saskatchewan was a very busy place. The location is the Sunny Brae Farm of Barbara and the late Neil Dennis. For three days it was the location of the Dennis Family Reunion and the celebration of the farm being in the same family for 125 years.

In 1900, Edward James Dennis and his wife Alice settled on this site, which, after years of hard work, good times and some bad times, became a successful family farm, often described as being a place of "peacefulness of the land."

The three-day event brought in generations of the Dennis Family members from all over the country. Behind the main house, in a shaded grassy area, it was filled with lawn chairs where family members of all ages shared histories, births and deaths, new adventures and old with much hugging and laughter among the wide variety of ages.

During the three-day event there was much to do, share and remember, with the farm yard filled with RV campers and tents. There was never a shortage of food and snacks, with bonfire hot dogs and marshmallows, potluck lunches, and a catered roast beef supper with a special dessert that featured a unique saskatoon berry sauce, the always popular pancake and sausage breakfast!

There were displays of old family photos and histories.

Another unique feature was a silent auction event with an eclectic collection of items from the farm's history, home made pickles, jams and baked goods, handmade quilts and blankets, Dennis family heirlooms, art work and old aerial photos of the Dennis homestead over the years. There was something for all ages and on some items there was intense bidding!

On Saturday afternoon, the official purpose of the gathering was held with prayers and histories and memories of the farm's 125 year history and operation. Pastor Trevor Dennis acted as MC along with his father and added to the history of the farm and its people over the years. However it was present owner, Barbara Dennis, who gave an emotional telling of the farm's history, its struggle, with the Depression, natural disasters and economic hardships. Her speech was very emotional and at times as she paused to compose herself.

Among the audience's older faces, you could see them remembering the past times. Barbara also took time to talk about her late husband Neil and his discovery of and later success with holistic farming methods and the recognition he was given. She ended her talk with the hope that the farm ownership would go on for future family generations and go forth with faith in God's help and a blessing on all those who came out to this farm that has seen five generations of ownership within the same family.

The crowd then moved to the driveway of the farm to a

large sign showing the family's connection to this piece of land along with recognition plaques of their success with holistic farming techniques

At the sign, a maple leaf tree was planted by the youngest and oldest members of the Dennis clan to celebrate the 125-year event.

After this event there was a general family meeting to discuss future family events in the area in remembrance of the family. This project will be funded by the money made by the successful and unique silent auction.

After an excellent catered supper, there was time for sitting by the bonfire, playing cornhole and conversation. Later in the evening there was a dance in a wonderful converted farm shed with the special musical styles of Joni and Roseanne "Cut a rug" recorded music show.

On Sunday, after the pancake breakfast, a church service was held in the field officiated by Pastor Trevor Dennis of Brandon.

"The celebration of 125 years was of the upmost importance to me personally and to the memory of my late husband Neil and finally to those Dennis family members over the years who have worked the land," said Barbara Dennis after the event.

"So much has transpired over the last 125 years. I found it extremely encouraging that so many family members and my friends helped me out on this day. But isn't this what family and friends are all about?"

# A getaway from the farm is good for the soul

Summer at last! We are fully past seeding and spraying season and our routine, well, mine, has seen some changes. The last week of school meant some special daily lunches for the grands and their friends plus lots of yummy baking like cinnamon buns and skor cakes. Now for the big question ... Will they come back next year?

As we watch those fields of green and yellow take shape in our part of the province, we can't help but think of the southwest part of the province where they are suffering through their 9th consecutive year of drought. We certainly feel the stress they are under and know that a decade of crop loss can mean another decade will pass by

before the economics make sense again.

When I was out driving with hubby, crop checking from a distance, dark blue skies were moving in from the west. What an incredible backdrop those skies were for

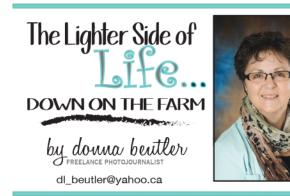
the beautiful yellow canola fields.

It seemed like the farm grandkids were no sooner done school and they were headed straight to the local auction barn for both local and regional 4-H shows and sales. And unlike many years when the spectators needed an umbrella to stay dry or a good warm coat to stay warm, this year was more about sunscreen, sunhats and potential heat stroke. Early July brought with it some beautiful warm days—what a great start to summer 2025!

Hubby and I are not cattle people at heart but the grands love their animals and we were so proud of them as they showed their continuation heifers with calves at side and their steers. Our granddaughter (16) loves show life even though her heifer was more interested in chewing on that little strip of grass along the gravel showring than she did in being led around. I couldn't help but chuckle a little even though I am pretty sure our granddaughter wasn't chuckling at her cow. I love to watch the kids as they so confidently groom their animals and lead them around the ring. I remember absolutely zero about cattle grooming from showing cattle oh so long ago but I recognize the determination and dedication of all members of the 4H club who give it their all and whose skills and work ethics will serve them well wherever life takes them.

With 4H shows over, it was time to head to the lake with five of our grands, complete with fishing gear, golf clubs, bedding and snacks. Whose idea was it to suggest the three oldest, 13 and 14x2 be in charge of picking out snacks at the grocery store? Between marshmallows and Turtles, Smore kits and bags of bulk candy, we eventually had everything together, including fruit and veges (no thanks to the kids) for a complete and overly indulgent four days of camping together.

The twins don't sleep in, even during camping trips, and are quick to ensure Gramps is ready to get out on the lake bright and early as they push the boat off from shore and head to their favorite fishing spots on the lake. Fortunately, they caught a lot of fish because the twins



wanted fish for practically every meal! One of the northern pike (caught and released) was an incredible catch as were some of the walleye, so my worries about the twins not wanting to fish with us in southern Saskatchewan now that they make a few trips a year up north were all for naught. They still love Fishing Lake, a place we have taken them every year for the past dozen or so.

One night, our youngest grandson (11) and I were having a chat about when his mom (our youngest) was little and some of the chores she was required to do. He always has very specific questions and when I told him that my kids each had to do their own laundry starting at the age of 12, he looked at me quizzically. "You have one year to go," I told him, "before you have to start doing your own laundry." There was a slight pause before he responded, "My dad is 44 and mom is still doing HIS laundry." Now what can you say to that?

The kids met some new friends out at the lake in July and together all eight of them biked and swam and played board games and participated in my version of a scavenger hunt where we tick off what we see rather than collect what's on the list. Good thing because they actually did find an orange front door on a cabin along the lake. I mean, what were the chances? And wings? With no seagulls or birds around during our little trek around the campground, they swatted at a swarm of teeny-tiny flies (as in you could hardly see them) and we accepted it for "wings" as we were sure they wings even though you really couldn't see them.

The boys and I spent an afternoon on the golf course and because I don't and have never golfed, I had a dozen questions until finally, the youngest of the bunch said, "Grandma, stop talking. Don't you know it's rude to talk when someone is ready to hit their ball?" Well, who knew? Certainly not I. Nevertheless, I learned a thing or two, including that not even the thrill of the game will stop twin farm boys from walking through a four-inch

deep, stinky little "pond" in search of a golf ball and come out the other side with 142 golf balls and very dirty legs, feet and hands, none of which were at all easy to clean. And 'stink' doesn't quite describe it—between the golf balls in the back of the cart and the boys' feet, reek might better describe the air surrounding our group for the remaining four holes. I am pretty sure the group ahead of us and the one behind us thought the Grandma at the wheel of the golf cart ought to be making her grands shower a

With July being our quieter month on the farm before the fall craziness once again begins, we have had time to get together with friends and family at barbeques, at the coffee shop and at the lake where sharing not only what some of the challenges on the farm are but what a great life farm-life really is. One couple shared their frustrations with their air drill this year (oh yeah, we relate); another how switching from one mode of farming (dairy) to another has allowed them to spend some fun time camping with their kids and do away with those 4:00 mornings.

As we soon put lake life behind us, our thoughts will be on bringing in the 2025 crop. The twins have faithfully been planting and watering baby trees, tilling shelterbelts, cutting grass and checking their canola crop. And I faithfully get out to the farm when they are away and together with the dogs, try to get my self-imposed number of steps for the day in. When I was cooking and hauling meals to the field twice a day during seeding and did not go on any planned walks, I was easily making upwards of 20,000 steps a day. The minute the cooking/meal-hauling ended, I dropped that in half and even with planned walks now, I can't reach the same number as I did in seeding. How can that even be? And am I looking forward to

September's busy pace again or not?

Life on the farm is definitely not for the faint of heart. We have been sowing and harvesting crops together for 48 years (more for hubby) and sometimes over those years I have resented the times we can't plan to go to an event or even a meeting that is being held in the middle of harvest or in seeding for that matter. And then I am reminded: This is our bread and butter. I have a roof over my head, shoes on my feet, food to eat. Our life has never been the 9-5, five days a week kind of life. I have nothing to complain about, even less to be resentful about. Plus every summer allows us a bit of getaway time to fish with the grands. Could life really be any better?

Here's hoping all our readers and farmers especially have an amazing summer and despite the workload that you carry at this time of year, may you get a chance to relax, to rejuvenate and to laugh with those you love. Remember—a getaway (if you can) is good for the soul. Happy Summer of 2025 folks! We'll see you when the

# Governments provide drought support with the doubled low yield appraisal

The federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Heath MacDonald and Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture Daryl Harrison have announced the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) is implementing measures to offer support to producers facing this year's challenging dry conditions. SCIC is implementing the double low yield appraisal process, encouraging acres of low-yielding eligible crops to be diverted to make additional feed available to graze, bale or silage.

"I've spoken with livestock and crop producers in Saskatchewan who are worried about the impact that dry conditions could have this year," MacDonald said. "Changing the yield threshold will give them some breathing room, so they can make the best decisions for

"In multiple areas throughout the province, our livestock producers are facing challenges from this year's dry conditions," Harrison said. "There is a need to quickly adapt to best support producers' timely, on-farm decisions. In 2021 and 2023, this same initiative was successfully implemented, resulting in over half a million acres of additional low yield crop redirected to feed. Once again, livestock producers are encouraged to work directly with neighbouring crop producers to access additional feed."

When crops are severely damaged and the appraised yield falls below an established threshold level, the yield is reduced to zero for the Crop Insurance claim. SCIC is doubling the low yield appraisal threshold values, allowing customers to salvage their eligible crops as feed, without negatively impacting future individual coverage. Prior to compensation, all qualifying acres for double low yield appraisals must be diverted to livestock feed. They cannot be left to harvest. Prior to putting damaged crops to an approved alternate use, producers should contact their local SCIC office.

"This announcement is welcome news for our livestock producers," SARM President Bill Huber said. "As in past years, it will help address feed shortages so many ranchers are experiencing. Timely support like this is critical to ensuring the sustainability of the sector in this province."

'Many cattle producers throughout the province are facing potential feed shortages," Saskatchewan Cattle Association Chair Chad Ross said. "The recent rains may help with some of the later seeded crops and possible pasture rebound in some areas. Unfortunately, the hay crop was already burnt off in several places. Writing off some crops through doubling the low yield threshold will provide cattle producers an option for feeding their animals they didn't previously have. The SCA thanks Ministers Harrison and MacDonald, along with the governments for moving quickly on this.

'We appreciate governments recognizing and meeting the need to support access to feed," Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association President Jeff Yorga said. "There are producers struggling with drought conditions. They are assessing and adjusting crop and feed requirements. This action taken helps our producers make those important decisions in a timely fashion. As we move forward, I strongly encourage producers to directly connect with each other to coordinate access to any additional feed made available through this change.

"Swift action from government has provided a vital lifeline to many Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers amid this year's early challenges," APAS President Bill Prybylski said. "The quick adjustment of support measures reflects a strong commitment to agriculture and sets a high standard for proactive, responsive risk management programming. Producers across the province feel heard, supported and valued."

AgriStability can provide support to producers for

production losses and increased expenses resulting from dry conditions. In most cases, the additional expense a producer incurs to acquire additional feed for their livestock is an eligible expense through the AgriStability Program. The deadline for producers to enroll in the existing AgriStability program for the 2025 program year is extended to July 31, 2025. The AgriStability Program includes an option to access timely support through an Interim Benefit, which gives producers the option of receiving funds prior to the completion of the fiscal period in the program year. This can help support losses and cover costs.

SCIC recognizes the most pressing concern for livestock producers is reduced hay and pasture production. Pasture acres are insured for the impact of dry conditions through the Forage Rainfall Insurance Program. Starting July 15, 2025, eligible producers will begin to receive claim payments, providing timely financial relief to help offset the impact of below average rainfall. By August 15, 2025, remaining claims are automatically calculated based strictly upon weather station data.

Saskatchewan Farm Stress Line provides support when producers need it the most. This is a confidential service, available 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, toll-free at 1-800-667-4442. Calls are answered by Mobile Crisis Services Regina, a non-profit, community-based agency and there is no call display.

Crop Insurance is a federal-provincial-producer costshared program that helps producers manage production and quality losses. Support for the program is provided by the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP).

For more information, producers can call 1-888-935-0000, visit scic.ca or contact their local SCIC office.



Next issue: September 12 • Deadline: September 3

# Better heating method makes legumes easier to digest

USask researchers find radio frequency heating breaks down antinutrient in peas and beans and is more energy efficient

By Ella Funk

While they have been part of our human diet for centuries, legumes like peas and beans are ultimately seeds for the next generation of plants. To protect themselves from being eaten by animals and insects, they contain "antinutrients" that are hard for animals – and humans – to digest.

These antinutritional compounds - which include tannins, lectins, trypsin inhibitors, and phytic acid – are broken down when beans and peas are heated. However, the large ovens that food processing companies currently use to heat beans and peas are inefficient. They can burn the outside before the inside has reached a temperature hot enough to deactivate the antinutrients.

Researchers from the University of Saskatchewan (USask) Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering have identified a new heating method – using radio frequency (RF) waves—that appears to be both more effective and ef-

ficient than the approach currently used in the industry.

Tolen Moirangthem, a PhD student from the group, compares RF waves to microwaves. "When you put a cup of water in the microwave, the water heats up, but the cup doesn't. The same is true for the pea—the water inside heats up, but the rest of the pea doesn't."

Scientists call this process "selective heating," because

it can heat some areas within a material but not others. It seems to help maintain the desirable nutritional properties in pea or bean, which can break down with regular heating methods. And unlike the long heating times of traditional processes, the RF heating method only takes a few minutes.

The team hypothesized that during RF heat treatment, the water inside a legume expands and turns into steam, which would cause the pores inside to explode from the pressure. In turn, this would create larger pores in the samples, as well as more pores in total, as the steam looked for ways to escape.



Using the Canadian Light Source at the USask, the research group confirmed that the beans treated with RF heat did in fact have more pores, and the heating method reduced the amount of an antinutrient (proteins called trypsin inhibitors)—by 81 per cent.

"We know that we have big potential with this project," says Moirangthem "Animal protein is very expensive in different parts of the world, so we need sustainable plant protein that can be produced at mass volume to feed the world population.'

This new heating method could help make bean and pea crops even more environmentally friendly to process, with the bonus of making legumes easier to digest.







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Mai





# Jess Moskaluke shoots music video locally, plans some shows close to home



A scene from Jess Moskaluke's new music video.

preparing for tour right now and then it's iust tour for the rest of this year. Then your probably not going to hear from me or see me for a little while.

"It's apples to oranges, I mean every-thing is the fun parts, those are all my favourite parts, the music that's unfortunately about 15% of my job now, and marketing, interviews, planning, content creation, travel, management now as well. There are a ton of other parts that are not very music related but, is just as

"If they weren't important to me I wouldn't still live here, so there impor-

"I love it here, I wouldn't be here if I didn't love it here and I love the community, there's a million things about it

mer and we're going into rehearsals—I'm and I think it's tough for me to answer because I show it in so many different ways including this video and this song and showing up on tour which not a lot of artists do, so instead of answering it verbally I think it is more meaningful to answer it in the ways I show up for my small communities over the years.

> 'I don't take enough time to think about that, I think that it's just been busy and as much as it is cool to other people and it is cool to me, it is also my job that I do every single day and I think that it's really easy to kind of get lost in that so I think, you know I get that question daily and I think everyday it's a good reminder to try and take a little more time and think about how special it is. It is awesome, I'm excited, but right now it's work mode, it is buckle down time to get ready for this. I'm thankful, I'm excited, I'm motivated, but right now it is time to gear down and prepare for this tour and make it the best that I can and once again show up for those people that have supported me, in this case by buying a ticket to come to see a show on the Life

Continued from page 15

#### Music video out now!

Moskaluke's new music video shot locally is out now on

"For those who haven't seen the video yet it really is just about that blogger," she said. "The whole concept of the video is showing somebody around unfamiliar parts— I don't want to give much of the video away—I'd rather have people watch it themselves I don't want to give any spoilers but, that's what it's about it's just showcasing country lifestyle in a little bit of an unconventional way."

#### Life for Me tour coming to Langenburg

Moskaluke will be performing in Langenburg this fall while on her Life for Me tour.

'A lot of times when I am able to play locally—first of all, it doesn't happen very often and when I can, the budget for a full band show is not often there. I think people don't realize that it's unfortunately not just me showing up and playing it's a crew of twelve people that all need to get paid and need to get flown in and put up in hotels, so this is a really great experience because when they want me to come and play it is great, but there is not always the opportunity to facilitate that because smaller towns often have smaller budgets and smaller venues and that's perfectly fine, I love

I've loved the way we've been able to do acoustics while performing close to home, but this is particularly exciting to me because I get to bring my actual full band show, no holds barred, and show them what I actually do because this is what I have been working on for so long, its been years in the making truly, and it's really special that I get to bring that home.

#### **Hometown shows**

Moskaluke says hometown shows can sometimes be the

'The crowd is always the most electric at home but to be totally honest the hometown shows are the most stressful. I always want to make sure that everybody feels seen, important, and appreciated, and not that I don't feel that way in other towns, but I really want to make sure that I take the time to make people in my life feel that way, and that's really hard to do when there is a thousand people in the town and you know every single one of them. The stakes feel higher to me because I know that these people have invested in my career for so many years and are so proud

and vocal about that, so I really just want to make sure that

#### After tour

everything is perfect. I am very thankful."

Moskaluke explains her next steps following her tour. "After that is hibernation. That is a seven week run. It's the longest tour I have ever done and I think that my agent said that it may even be one of the longest ones that a female Canadian has done in many years. So hibernation is what's next. Right now I am going to finish out the sum-







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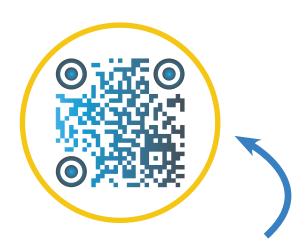
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